
LAB ALERT #11: SARS-CoV-2 TESTING UPDATES (3/16; 4:30pm)

Specimen Triage for SARS-CoV-2 Testing: The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) has been working with the CDC, FDA, and vendors across the country to acquire critical supplies for testing. However, at this time the SDPHL is facing significant shortages of critical supplies required for SARS-CoV-2 testing. On 3/16, SDPHL will begin triaging specimens for testing as indicated in Lab Alert #10. The following patient groups will receive priority:

- Healthcare workers and first responders
- Individuals who are 65 years of age and older
- Individuals with underlying medical conditions

Of the 76 samples received at the SDPHL today, 58 will be tested for SARS-CoV-2. The remaining 18 specimens were determined to be from “low risk” patients based on data provided on the SARS-CoV-2 Laboratory Requisition and PUI Evaluation Form. Any specimen received at the SDPHL today (3/16) that is not tested will be tested on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 based on availability of testing supplies.

Submitting laboratories will be notified by phone regarding patients who will not be tested on 3/16.

Please distribute this LAB ALERT to others in your facility that may need this information.