

LAB ALERT #12: SARS-CoV-2 TESTING UPDATES (3/18)

There is a nationwide shortage of supplies needed to run tests for SARS-CoV-2. The South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) was able to run tests for medium and high-risk patients on Monday, March 16. **However, the SDPHL did not receive additional supplies as expected to run tests beyond March 16, and there is no timeframe of when these supplies will be available from the CDC and our commercial suppliers.** The SDPHL has reached out to all available commercial suppliers. The SDPHL has also reached out to clinical and research laboratories in South Dakota, and to public health laboratories in nearby states. Unfortunately, we are all experiencing the same supply shortage.

Some of our state's health systems are developing their own laboratory tests for SARS-CoV-2, and commercial testing options are coming on-line every day. The SDPHL will support our clinical laboratory partners any way we can to develop tests in-house and to validate commercially available tests.

Providers should continue to collect and send samples to the SDPHL to be processed once testing supplies are received. Specimens received by the SDPHL will continue to be triaged according to the following priority groups:

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

Direction for patients with pending SARS-CoV-2 testing is to remain at home and self-quarantine until laboratory results are available. Direction for people with COVID-19 symptoms is do not show up at your providers office or the emergency department without first calling. Please call first and a provider will help determine next steps.

Thank you for your patience.

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