

## LAB ALERT #16: SARS-CoV-2 TESTING UPDATES (4/16)

**REMINDER – High-Priority Groups for SARS-CoV-2 Testing at the SDPHL:** The following are high-priority groups tested by the SDPHL for SARS-CoV-2:

- Symptomatic healthcare workers
- Hospitalized individuals
- Individuals in communal living (e.g., long term care facilities)

**UPDATED – Specimen Recommendations for SARS-CoV-2 Testing at SDPHL:**

- PREFERRED: Nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium (VTM)
- ACCEPTABLE: Oropharyngeal swab in VTM
- ACCEPTABLE: Midturbinate swab in VTM
- ACCEPTABLE: Nasal swab in VTM
- ACCEPTABLE: Nasopharyngeal swab in sterile PBS or sterile saline (0.85%)
- ACCEPTABLE: Oropharyngeal swab in sterile PBS or sterile saline (0.85%)

**UPDATED – Specimen Collection Supplies:** Specimen collection supplies provided by the SDPHL should only be used for patient populations included in the high priority groups listed above. Please contact SDPHL for recipes and manufacturer information for sterile saline and sterile PBS.

**REMINDER – SDPHL Day of Operation and Statewide Courier:** The SDPHL will provide SARS-CoV-2 testing 7 days a week. Courier services will continue to be offered 7 days a week. The weekend courier schedule can be found in [Lab Alert #15](#).

**UPDATED – Testing Schedule at SDPHL:** In order to ensure test results are available by early afternoon, the SDPHL will commence SARS-CoV-2 testing at 8am each day. All samples must be received in the SDPHL before 8am in order to be eligible for the day's testing.

**NEW – Serological Testing for SARS-CoV-2:** Numerous tests are commercially available for serologic testing (aka antibody testing) for SARS-CoV-2. SDPHL recommends caution when evaluating and implementing antibody tests for SARS-CoV-2. Many tests, particularly those from overseas, are advertised as FDA and/or FDA-EUA approved but they are not approved. It is imperative that your facilities rigorously evaluate COVID-19 serological tests under consideration before implementation. More information about FDA-EUA approved serology tests for COVID-19 can be found on the [FDA website](#).

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