

LAB ALERT #18: SARS-CoV-2 TESTING UPDATES (6/7)

UPDATED – South Dakota Public Health Laboratory High-Priority Groups for SARS-CoV-2 Testing:

- Hospitalized individuals
- Healthcare workers, first responders, and military
- Individuals in communal living settings such as long-term care facilities
- Underinsured or uninsured individuals
- Low-income individuals or individuals unable to pay for testing
- Individuals that are homeless or who have experienced recent homelessness

It is a statewide priority that ALL individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 be tested for SARS-CoV-2 with the recommendation from a health care provider

UPDATED – SDPHL Days of Operation: SDPHL will provide SARS-CoV-2 testing 6 days a week, Monday through Saturday, beginning the week of June 8. SDPHL will no longer provide SARS-CoV-2 testing services on Sundays.

UPDATED – Courier Service: Courier service will be offered six days a week, Monday through Saturday, beginning the week of June 8. Courier service will not be provided on Sundays beginning June 14. Specimens collected for courier pick-up on Saturdays will be delivered to the SDPHL each Monday. Courier service will continue to provide next-day delivery of specimens to the SDPHL all other days.

UPDATED – Serological (Antibody) Testing for SARS-CoV-2: On June 29, SDPHL will implement antibody testing for SARS-CoV-2 to detect both IgM and IgG. SDPHL will provide dual antibody testing, or two antibody tests that detect different SARS-CoV-2 antigens, which will improve the positive predictive value for SARS-CoV-2 antibody testing. Antibody testing will be limited to the following:

- Population-level seroprevalence studies
- Evaluation of recovered individuals for convalescent plasma donations
- Clinical assessment of COVID-19 illness for individuals when combined with results from PCR testing in consultation with a provider trained to interpret those results

SDPHL reminds all laboratories that perform antibody testing that there is no information to suggest individuals with antibodies are immune to COVID-19. There is no information to indicate duration of protection for individuals that have antibodies. Misuse of antibody test results may put individuals, families, and communities at risk.

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