

March 18, 2020

There is a nationwide shortage of supplies needed to run tests for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. 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.**

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 priority levels on the South Dakota Department of Health webpage:

<https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx#Providers>

- **In the absence of current testing, SD-DOH recommends that individuals suspected of having COVID-19 self-isolate at home until COVID-19 testing has been completed or release from isolation according to the following:**
 - Person does not have fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for at least 72 hours (at least 3 full days)
AND
 - Person has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
AND
 - At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

General Communication Messages

Actions individuals can take to avoid becoming ill:

- Wash your hands often:
 - Use soap and water
 - Scrub your hands for 20 seconds
 - Rinse and dry completely
 - Do so after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

Actions individuals can take after becoming ill with a respiratory illness:

- Stay at home if you have symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Fever (100.4° F)
OR
 - Cough
OR
 - Shortness of breath
- Contact your medical provider if your symptoms become severe