

LAB ALERT #3: Novel Coronavirus Testing Offered at the SDPHL

Date: February 28, 2020

To: South Dakota Public Health Laboratory Clientele

From: South Dakota Public Health Laboratory Client Services

On February 27, 2020, the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) completed verification of the CDC 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) diagnostic test. This test will allow SDPHL to detect 2019-nCoV, also known as SARS-CoV-2, from upper and lower respiratory specimens. There will be no charge for this testing.

Guidelines for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

1. Identify COVID-19 Illness: SARS-CoV-2 testing will only be performed for a [person under investigation](#) (PUI) as determined by the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) using CDC PUI criteria. Contact the SD-DOH for SARS-CoV-2 testing approval (1-800-592-1861 or 605-773-3737).

2. Collect Specimens: The following specimens are required for SARS-CoV-2 testing:

- All PUIs: Nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium
- All PUIs: Oropharyngeal swab in viral transport medium
- PUIs with advanced disease: Sputum (only if producing; do not induce)

Duplicate specimens should be collected. One set of specimens should be tested for common respiratory pathogens by a clinical laboratory and the second set of specimens should be shipped to SDPHL for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

3. Test for Common Respiratory Pathogens: COVID-19 PUIs must be tested for common respiratory pathogens such as influenza and RSV, both of which are circulating in South Dakota at the time of this Lab Alert. SDPHL offers the Respiratory Pathogens Panel (RPP) for facilities with limited testing capabilities. There will be no charge for this testing. Test results for PUIs should be communicated to the SDPHL as soon as they are available.

4. Package and Ship Specimens to SDPHL: Specimens for SARS-CoV-2 testing should be shipped to the SDPHL on ice packs as a Category B biological substance. Specimens can be shipped using the SDPHL courier service. The courier can be reached at 877-434-9366.

For any questions regarding the information provided in this LAB ALERT, contact the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory at 605-773-3368.

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