

SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Guidance

TN Dept of Health-Division of Laboratory Services

Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing:

*Note: Criteria are subject to change based on demand and capacity. These criteria **do not** apply to facilities in the Middle Tennessee Emerging Infections Program (EIP) catchment area which includes all acute care facilities within Davidson, Cheatham, Robertson, Sumner, Wilson, Rutherford, Dickson, or Williamson Counties. Facilities in this catchment area are required to submit **any** respiratory specimen that test is positive by a molecular diagnostic test for SARS-CoV-2 (and has not/will not be sequenced at another laboratory) to the State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL).*

- Fully vaccinated (breakthrough) case (regardless of severity of illness or outcome)
- Potentially re-infected (PCR or antigen positive results >90 days apart)
- Deceased case
- Hospitalized case
- Pregnant case
- Part of an identified cluster (≥5 cases)

Sequencing Request & Approval Process:

1. Access the Lab Web Portal (LWP) for order entry: <https://lwp-web.aimsplatform.com/tn2/#/auth/login>
2. Label specimens accordingly. Please note that specimens must be labeled with at least two unique identifiers (i.e., first and last name, DOB) that match the entries in the Lab Web Portal or they will be unsatisfactory for testing.
3. Ship specimens to laboratory following the shipping information below.
4. Once testing is completed, results will be accessible to the submitter via LWP. Results will also be reported to TN Dept of Health via Electronic Laboratory Report (ELR). Please be aware sequencing is for public health purposes and not intended for patient management. As such, turnaround times for sequencing results are ~7-10d from specimen receipt at the laboratory.

Shipping Information:

Please send the following specimens:

1 mL (500µL minimum) of the SARS-CoV-2 positive respiratory specimen

- Specimens should be sent in viral transport media or saline. MTM and Aptima media are not accepted.
- Specimens should be kept cold (2-8°C) and must be frozen (-70°C) within 72 hours of collection. Frozen specimens should be shipped on dry ice to ensure they remain frozen during transit.

Shipping address:

TN DOH Laboratory
Attn: Linda Thomas - Molecular
630 Hart Lane, Nashville, TN 37216

Instructions for packaging & shipping Category B specimens:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2020-07/Guide%20to%20Packaging%20Cat%20B%20Diagnostic%20Samples%20Poster.pdf>

Questions:

Please contact COVID19.testing@tn.gov for questions regarding the Lab Web Portal or SARS-CoV-2 sequencing.