

# SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing Guidance

TN Dept of Health-Division of Laboratory Services

## **Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing:**

*Note: Sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 positive specimens meeting any of the criteria below is encouraged, but not required. Criteria are subject to change based on demand and capacity.*

- 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](mailto:COVID19.testing@tn.gov) for questions regarding the Lab Web Portal or SARS-CoV-2 sequencing.