



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Updates for Healthcare Providers

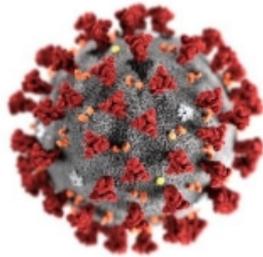
March 13, 2020

Housekeeping

- **All guidance presented here may be quickly out of date due to this rapidly evolving situation.**
- **Slides and recording will be made available following this call.**
- **All lines are muted.**
 - Enter questions in the chat box
 - We will address as many as possible during the call. The rest will be addressed in a Q&A document sent out with the recording

www.tn.gov/health post daily updates at 2pm

PLEASE NOTE: COVID-19 is a reportable disease in Tennessee.



Novel Coronavirus

Infectious agent: *severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus2 (SARS-CoV-2)*

Situation Summary: In December 2019, Chinese health authorities identified an outbreak of pneumonia associated with a novel, or new, coronavirus which has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States. There are ongoing investigations to learn more. Click here to access CDC's COVID-19 webpage for the most up to date information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

Testing Location	Total COVID-19 Tests Completed	Number Negative	Number Positive
TN State Public Health Laboratory	88	79	9
All other commercial and private laboratories	--	--	9
Total positives in TN			18

County	Case Count
Davidson	6
Knox	1
Shelby	2
Sullivan	1
Williamson	8

** Data include both confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 reported to TDH or tested by TDH since January 21, 2020. These figures are updated daily at 2 p.m. Central time and reflect all cases reported to TDH as of that time.*

TDH Response

- Incident Command Center activated Jan 15, 2020
- Public info line 10a-10p 7d/week 877-857-2945 answering 100s of calls from your patients each day
- Call center for clinicians 8am-MN 7d/week answering 100s of calls from clinicians every day
- On-call MN-8am 7d/week

Updated Options for COVID-19 Testing

- Commercial (LabCorp, Quest, AEL (Monday))
 - Specimens must be collected by healthcare provider according to laboratory guidelines
 - Most labs will only work with contracted providers
 - Preferred for patients with mild illness
 - **CALL LABS BEFORE SENDING SPECIMENS TO ENSURE YOU'RE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THEIR PROCEDURES!**
- Clinical lab/healthcare facility
 - Clinical laboratories within some healthcare systems have internal testing for their patients
 - Criteria for testing deferred to performing facility
- TN Department of Health State Laboratory
 - Testing capacity limited but expanding
 - Preferred for specific high-risk patient populations

TDH Prioritization for COVID-19 Testing

- **Symptomatic individuals with contact to confirmed COVID-19 case**
- **Travel to a high-risk international or domestic location with evidence of widespread community transmission**
- **Pregnant women or immunocompromised individuals**
- **High-risk occupation (healthcare worker, anyone working with elderly/at-risk populations)**
- **Individuals with severe pneumonia/ARDS of unknown etiology**

COVID-19 Testing Terminology

Test Kits: Term used by CDC and other outlets to describe laboratory reagents that are used to perform SARS-CoV-2 (virus that causes COVID-19) detection.

*Not sent to providers or healthcare facilities or provider offices

Clinical Specimens:

- Samples (NP/OP swabs, lower respiratory specimens, nasal wash/aspirate) that are sent to laboratories to test for SARS-CoV-2 (virus that causes COVID-19).
- Viral Transport Media

COVID-19 Specimen Collection

- Initial triage, assessment, and clinical specimen collection for patients with respiratory illness **can safely be completed in most clinical setting using appropriate precautions**
- Local public health cannot test your patients
- Not appropriate to send them to EDs for testing
- There is no recommendation to test asymptomatic patients
- Clinicians do not need TDH permission to send testing to a commercial lab

Clinical Operations

- Develop new standard operating procedures
- Consider cancelling elective visits
- Consider telehealth visits, where appropriate
 - Zoom is free and HIPAA compliant
- Post signs asking pts to call, change voice mail recordings
- Meet pts outside w mask
- Bring pts in through an alternate door and room immediately
- Droplet precautions for staff within 3-6 feet
- PPE for staff w/ direct contact w/ pt
- Limit staff exposure

TDH Updated PPE Recommendations

Setting	Target Personnel	Activity	Type of PPE or procedure
Triage	Healthcare personnel	Preliminary screening (not direct contact)	Maintain spatial distance of >3 ft No specific PPE required for HCP
	Patient with respiratory symptoms	Any	Place surgical mask on patient Minimize time in waiting room
Patient Room	Healthcare personnel	Direct patient care	Gown, gloves, facemask, eye protection (goggles or face shield)
	Healthcare personnel	Specimen collection ¹	Gown, gloves, facemask, eye protection (goggles or face shield) *Depending on PPE supply, consider use of N-95 respirator if there is concern about aerosol generation during specimen collection (no AIIR required)
	Healthcare personnel	Aerosol-generating procedures ²	Gown, gloves, N-95 respirator, eye protection (goggles or face shield)
	Patient with respiratory symptoms	Routine clinical care	To the degree possible, patients with respiratory symptoms should wear a surgical mask during encounters with the healthcare team

Testing

- Consider testing for flu and sending resp viral panel before COVID-19 testing
- Use synthetic swabs (no cotton, no calcium alginate)
- Plastic or aluminum shafts (no wood)
 - 1 nasopharyngeal*
- Put both swabs in viral transport medium
- Label with pt name and DOB
- Send to outside lab unless pt is high risk and warrants rapid turnaround for testing
 - TDH authorization for testing: 615-741-7247
- Send pt home to self-isolate until results return
- Immediately notify local public health of positives

*CDC guidance changed 3/13 to require only NP and no longer NP and OP swabs

Keeping Your Office Healthy

- Have a STRICT policy
 - NO ONE in your office comes to work if they are not feeling well
 - They should remain isolated at home until they feel well for at least 72 hours.
 - **No exceptions**
 - May mean closing the clinic
 - Please be proactive

General Precautions

- Wash hands
- Hand sanitizer
- Social distancing
- Avoid mass gatherings
 - If you can't be 3-6 feet from the next person, don't go
- Avoid small enclosed air spaces when possible (public transportation, theaters)
- Don't send kids to school if they are not well
 - Once there's a case in a school, that school will be closed
- Avoid non-essential travel. Outdoor spaces are great!



Questions