COVID-19 Laboratory Prioritization Advisory and Testing Triage Tool
March 18, 2020 Update #1: Commercial Lab Testing Advised for Tier 1 Hospitalized Patients

This provider advisory is issued in collaboration with healthcare partners to assure coordinated testing instructions and triage criteria for priority COVID-19 testing. It reflects the need to prioritize patients due to current limited testing availability and shortages of testing supplies. The situation is changing rapidly. This advisory will be updated regularly.

The advisory contains the following:
- Laboratory testing and required suspect case reporting instructions
- COVID-19 Testing Triage Tool to be used by licensed health care providers and registered nurses

Laboratory Testing by Tier 1, 2, and 3

There are two sources of testing for suspect COVID-19 patients:

- **Public health laboratory** (PHL) testing: Limited capacity. Reserved for symptomatic Tier 1 healthcare workers and residential facility patients (ex. SNFs). Requires health officer pre-approval. Turnaround 24-48 hr.

- **Commercial laboratory** testing such as LabCorp or Quest. Tier 1 patients not included above, Tier 2 and 3 patients as prioritized using the COVID-19 Testing Triage Tool. Turnaround time currently 4-6 days. Health officer approval NOT required.

Suspect Cases Must Be Reported

- **Tier 1:** Healthcare workers and residential facility patients (ex. SNFs) Call Disease Control at (805) 681-5280, report case, receive PUI # from health officer for PHL testing, enter case into CalREDIE. Request testing supplies if needed.

- **Tier 2 and 3 and other Tier 1:** Report all suspect cases tested by a commercial lab in CalREDIE prior to receiving results.

- If you do not have a CalREDIE account and are testing a case call Disease Control at (805) 681-5280

Specimen Instruction

1. All CDC PPE guidance for office staff and providers must be followed for suspect cases
2. First rule out other respiratory infections by respiratory panel and or rapid influenza test
3. Collect respiratory specimen: nasopharyngeal (NP) only
   a. Use Dacron swab with plastic stem and regular viral transport media vial
4. Collect sputum only if productive cough is present. Do not induce sputum.
   a. Use sterile container
5. Keep specimen in refrigerator and call health officer for PUI number for Tier 1 patients
   • Send specimens for Tier 1 patients with relevant submittal form per health officer instructions
   • Send specimens for Tier 2 and Tier 3 patients per commercial lab instructions

| Tier 1 | • Symptomatic individuals residing in congregate living facilities (e.g. jails, shelters, long-term care facilities, skilled nursing facilities), hospitalized or not hospitalized
|        | • Symptomatic health care workers, including emergency medical services (EMS) and other first responders
|        | • Patients who are hospitalized or severely ill, regardless of age or comorbidities- **commercial testing advised**
| Tier 2 | • Symptomatic persons 60 and older with comorbidities, especially those with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, hypertension, and cancer
|        | • Please use the attached COVID-19 Testing Triage Tool
| Tier 3 | • All other patients not included in Tier 1 and Tier 2 as testing capacity and supplies are available
|        | • Please use the attached COVID-19 Testing Triage Tool
Santa Barbara County COVID-19 Testing Triage Tool
March 15, 2020

Each tested suspect case of COVID-19 must be reported via CalREDIE. Please call Santa Barbara County Disease Control at (805) 681-5280 if you have a Tier 1 suspect case per laboratory prioritization advisory. This tool is designed to be used by a health care provider or registered nurse. Patient information sheets on testing, quarantine, and home care if not tested can be found here- https://publichealthsbc.org/healthcare-professionals/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone or In-Person Triage Questions</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Points Alotted</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have a fever (above 100.4F)?</td>
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<td>Do you have a new cough?</td>
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<td>Do you have new shortness of breath or pain with taking a deep breath?</td>
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If the answer is NO to all of the above questions, the patient is not a candidate for COVID-19 Testing. If the answer is YES to any of the above, proceed with the next section (below):

Have you had close contact<sup>2</sup> with a person with documented COVID-19 infection?            YES=4

Have you traveled to the following places in the last 14 days (does not include staying in the airport):

- a. China, South Korea, Iran, Europe, Japan, Hong Kong (note additional travel history below, countries and areas at risk will change) YES=2

Are you age 60 or older? Age: _____________________ YES=1

Do you have any underlying chronic lung disease, such as COPD, fibrosis, etc.? YES=1

Do you have any of the following conditions:

- a. Cancer
- b. Cerebrovascular disease
- c. Diabetes
- d. Chronic cardiac disease
- e. Other conditions that may lower your immunity (e.g., HIV) or medications that may lower your immunity, such as steroids, immunotherapy, chemotherapy?

Patients who score 5 or more points may be candidates for COVID-19 testing if other sources of illness have been ruled out.

- It will be up to the provider to determine what additional evaluation should be performed prior to COVID testing, but other considerations for an in-person assessment include the following: pulse ox, temp., point of care flu testing, CBC, etc.
- Any patient referred for COVID testing should be wearing a face mask and should be quarantined at home until the test results are known.

<sup>1</sup>NO responses earn zero points

<sup>2</sup>Close contact is defined as being in close proximity (within 6 feet) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time:

- Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 patient or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case