

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Provider Checklist

Last Updated: March 5, 2020

To assure protection of healthcare workers and rapid identification of suspect cases of COVID-19, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) is advising all providers to take the following actions to screen, report, and test for Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 infection:

Step 1: Ensure facility is prepared for COVID-19

- Review and implement measures in [CDPH Healthcare Facility Preparedness Checklist](#)
- Hospitals: Review and implement measures in [CDC Hospital Preparedness Assessment Tool](#)
- Review and implement [CDC Interim Infection Control and Prevention Recommendations](#)

Step 2: Identify patients who may have respiratory illness caused by COVID-19

- Place updated signage with new travel areas indicated on [CDC PUI webpage](#) and implement a thorough travel screening at triage.
- Place surgical mask on all patients that present with respiratory symptoms.

Step 3: Is the patient a Person Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19?

- Screen all patients with respiratory symptoms using PUI criteria below and on CDC [webpage](#).
(Updated 3/4/20)

Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

Epidemiologic factors that may help guide decisions on whether to test include: any persons, including healthcare workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.

Testing must be approved by the Santa Barbara Health Department. If you suspect that your patient has COVID-19, please contact us immediately to discuss the case with a Health Officer. We are available 24/7 at (805) 681-5280.

IF NO then STOP here and continue evaluation for alternative diagnoses as clinically indicated.

IF YES then immediately isolate patient, if not already isolated:

- Place symptomatic patients with a positive travel history in an airborne isolation room, or private room with a closed door if an airborne isolate room is unavailable. Smaller facilities may want to ask suspect patient to wait in a car or outside, if possible, until PHD is called.

Step 4: Implement the following infection control procedures for healthcare workers:

Healthcare workers should follow CDC guidance for standard, contact, and airborne precautions, including the use of eye protection <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html> (Updated February 21, 2020)

- NIOSH-approved respirator such as N95 respirator or Positive Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR)
- Eye protection: face shield or goggles
- Gowns
- Gloves

Step 5: If requested by PHD, collect specimens for laboratory testing

- The PHD will work with CDPH Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) and the CDC to coordinate testing.
- Review [CDC Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens](#) for COVID-19 (Updated February 14, 2020)
- If testing is required, collect oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabs. Please call 805-681-5280 (24/7) to have transport to Public Health Lab expedited.

Step 6: Continue medical evaluation and empiric treatment for other causes of respiratory infection as clinically indicated.

All patients with suspected COVID-19 infection may also be tested for common causes of respiratory infection as clinically indicated. Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen collection for COVID-19 testing.

Guidance & Resources:

- Santa Barbara County Public Health Department- [Novel Coronavirus 2019](#)
- [CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [CDC Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure](#) (updated March 4, 2020)
- [CDC Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure Guidance](#)
- [Cal/OSHA Interim Guidance for Protecting Health Care Workers](#)
- [CDC Resources for Healthcare Facilities](#)

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