



## Disease Control and Prevention

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### Provider Alert

#### COVID-19 Testing and Reporting

March 9, 2020

At this time, COVID-19 testing has become available to healthcare providers through LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics, and does not require approval by the local Health Officer. Clinicians should use their judgment however, to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Initial testing for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza should be conducted. Healthcare and skilled nursing facilities should have a low threshold for evaluating symptoms of employees and residents, and are asked to contact Santa Barbara County Public Health at (805) 681-5280 24/7 to coordinate testing, if indicated. In order to expedite results, COVID-19 testing for healthcare personnel and residents of skilled nursing facilities should be processed through the local Public Health Lab.

Per Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2500, a novel virus infection with pandemic potential requires immediate reporting. Since COVID-19 is a novel virus infection with pandemic potential, healthcare providers and laboratories are required to report positive laboratory test results for COVID-19 immediately by calling the Santa Barbara County Public Health 24/7 number at (805) 681-5280.

In addition, healthcare providers must submit an electronic Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) via the CalREDIE Provider Portal. If you are not currently reporting via the CALREDIE Provider Portal, please visit our website for enrollment at [www.sbcphd.org/dcp](http://www.sbcphd.org/dcp).

It is extremely important that laboratories promptly report all positive confirmed cases via CalREDIE Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) to enable Public Health monitoring of the scope and severity of COVID-19 locally and in California. Immediate reporting by phone at (805) 681-5280 24/7 is still required.

Please see the attached updated List of Reportable Diseases that includes COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus 2019).