



May 1, 2020

Significant recent changes are highlighted in blue text

Criteria for COVID-19 testing at OSPHL

The charge of the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) requires prioritized testing for certain groups. Public Health approval is required prior to testing at OSPHL. Approval is based on the criteria described below.

Clinical and private laboratory options for COVID-19 testing continue to expand. Clinicians can order COVID-19 testing at their discretion through such laboratories, including Oregon hospital labs and commercial labs such as LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics. Public Health approval is not needed for this testing. Guidance for providers is outlined in a separate document, available at healthoregon.org/coronavirushcp.

Testing at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

1. Expedited testing approval for COVID-19 testing at OSPHL:
 - a. A patient who meets all of the following criteria will be approved for testing:
 - i. Clinical need for admission to an inpatient facility;
 - ii. Evidence of viral lower respiratory infection; and
 - iii. While influenza is circulating, an influenza test ordered.
 - b. For such patients, clinicians must submit an electronic request for testing through a Confidential Oregon Morbidity Report, found at healthoregon.org/howtoreport:
 - i. Click the button for “Online Morbidity Report.”
 - ii. Select COVID-19.
 - iii. Answer all three clinical questions.
 - iv. Complete all of the requested information.
 - v. Public health officials will review the electronic submission for record-keeping.
 - c. For such patients, you do **not** need to call your local public health authority or Oregon Health Authority for approval.
 - d. Collect, package and ship the specimen, along with a completed [Virology/Immunology Test Request form](#). See Sections 4 and 5 for details.
2. Residents, staff, children, or other people in a care facility or group living setting (e.g., healthcare facility, residential care facility, school, migrant or seasonal farm worker camp, child care, or corrections) and workers who provide direct care or service in multiple group facilities or who provide in-home services (e.g. hospice care workers, physical or occupational therapists, in-home personal care workers, etc.) may be tested for COVID-19 at OSPHL according to the following criteria:
 - a. OSPHL will test any person with acute onset of COVID-19 symptoms in care facility

or group living settings and, as capacity allows, may consider testing asymptomatic people also if current disease clusters or outbreaks dictate.

- b. OSPHL will test people with acute onset of COVID-19 symptoms who provide direct care or service in multiple group facilities or who provide in-home services.
 - c. Oregon law requires reporting of any cluster of illness to the LPHA. Wait for public health approval of testing before submitting specimens to OSPHL.
 - d. Collect, package and ship the specimen, along with a completed [Virology/Immunology Test Request form](#). See Sections 4 and 5 for details.
3. Patients seen at tribal health centers, NARA Indian Health Clinic, and Chemawa Indian Health Center who have acute onset of COVID-19 symptoms may be tested for COVID-19 at OSPHL.
4. Collecting specimens
- a. Specimens should be collected under appropriate infection prevention precautions. For information on recommended infection prevention for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, including PPE use and a list of aerosol-generating procedures, see OHA's Provisional Guidance: Clinical Care and Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19 at healthoregon.org/hcpcovid19.
 - b. OSPHL will test one specimen per patient.
 - i. Lower respiratory specimens (bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, endotracheal aspirate, or sputum) are preferred if feasible. Otherwise, upper respiratory specimens are acceptable, with nasopharyngeal swab preferred; oropharyngeal swab, nasal mid-turbinate swab, bilateral anterior nares swab, or nasal wash are also acceptable.
 - ii. If more than one specimen is received, OSPHL will test only the highest-preference specimen.
 - c. Refrigerate specimens (2°–8° C) until they can be sent to OSPHL. If >72 hours are anticipated for specimen storage and transport prior to testing, freeze at -70°C or below.
5. Sending specimens and forms
- a. Complete specimen collection guidance and the OSPHL *Virology/Immunology Test Request Form* are available at www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/LABORATORYSERVICES/Pages/COVID-19.aspx
 - i. Complete the form. In the "OTHER/MOLECULAR" section, mark the checkbox indicating "Other," and type or write in "2019-nCoV" or "COVID-19" on the line provided.
 - ii. Incorrectly completed or incomplete test request forms cause a delay in testing.
 - iii. Transport specimens at refrigerated temperatures (2°–8° C).
 - iv. Send specimens so that they will be received at OSPHL during expanded business hours:
 1. Monday–Friday, between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
 2. Saturday and Sunday, between 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon.

You can get this document free of charge in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Mavel Morales at 1-844-882-7889, 711 TTY or OHA.ADAModifications@dhsoha.state.or.us.