

**Health Advisory: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing Urgent Notice**

Minnesota Department of Health, Thurs Mar 12 15:00 CDT 2020

## Action Steps:

***Local and tribal health department***: Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.  
***Hospitals, clinics and other facilities***: Please forward to infection preventionists, infectious disease physicians, emergency department staff, hospitalists, primary care clinicians, and all other health care providers who might see patients with acute respiratory symptoms.  
***Health care providers***:

* Commercial laboratories are offering SARS-CoV-2 lab testing.
* Due to national reagent shortages for testing, please submit one specimen per patient (By priority: both NP and OP swabs in ONE container, one NP only, or one OP).
* Only one specimen will be tested per patient
* Visit the [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Findex.html&data=02%7C01%7Ctoby.mcadams%40state.mn.us%7Cf06e42fb6ee84ddaa2e708d7c6bc1074%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637196383343430960&sdata=bpmtTM7qGcbFzo%2BcXwtjOnZU94Do%2FEl3ptOA8ogF5UM%3D&reserved=0) website for additional information on COVID-19.
* Consider clinical indicators before submitting a specimen, refer to [Health Advisory: Evaluating and Testing for COVID-19 in Minnesota](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/han/2020/mar5covid19.pdf).

## Patient Specimen Collection Guidance/Specimen Type

Specimens for testing include:

Nasopharyngeal (NP), oropharyngeal (OP) specimens, and a sputum specimen (if the patient has a productive cough or sputum is required for clinical reasons).

Instructions for specimen collection and shipping can be found at [CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for Coronavirus Disease 2019](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-nCoV%2Flab%2Fguidelines-clinical-specimens.html&data=02%7C01%7Ctoby.mcadams%40state.mn.us%7Caf7a24c0812748149b2108d7c6b9c6b0%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637196373526720507&sdata=v%2BzP%2Bw3fUWfJv3DFwzZ2XYzzdFE0HXL8GFhWsAd%2BOjU%3D&reserved=0)

A [Clinical Testing & Submission Form](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html) and a COVID-19 Patient Testing Form ([MDH COVID Patient Testing Forms](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/eval.html#forms)) must be completed for each specimen, note COVID-19 testing in comments. Please submit only one specimen per patient, or an NP and OP swab in a single container.

**Positive tests from the MDH are considered presumptive positive. Positive results will be communicated but they must also be confirmed at CDC at this time.**

## For More Information

More information is available at the [CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Findex.html&data=02%7C01%7Ctoby.mcadams%40state.mn.us%7Caf7a24c0812748149b2108d7c6b9c6b0%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637196373526730500&sdata=QjyIR9SH6TdS%2BeahE6teGM4rEskajO2ooaJ%2BcCuv3C0%3D&reserved=0) or by calling MDH at 651-201-5414.

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han)   
The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.