



PROVIDER HEALTH ALERT UPDATE
MARCH 20, 2020
2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Community spread of COVID-19 has been established in Contra Costa County and we expect numbers of cases will continue to increase. Mitigation strategies such as social distancing and isolation of ill individuals will be most effective **for containing the spread of COVID-19**. This is an evolving situation and new developments will be posted regularly. For the latest COVID-19 guidance, please visit and bookmark <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/healthcare-providers>.

Consider testing all patients who meet **clinical criteria** for COVID-19: **fever** (may be subjective) and/or symptoms of **acute lower respiratory illness** such as cough and shortness of breath.

Patients who are most vulnerable to severe disease and patients who may expose vulnerable people should have highest priority for COVID-19 testing. **COVID-19 testing for symptomatic members of these groups should be sent to the Contra Costa Public Health Lab (CCPHL) for expedited testing:**

1. Persons who **LIVE or WORK in CONGREGATE FACILITIES**:
 - Skilled nursing, board and care, assisted living and other congregate senior living facilities
 - Shelters, group homes, residential treatment programs
 - Jails
2. **HOMELESS PERSONS** regardless of current status of shelter
3. **HEALTH CARE WORKERS** and **FIRST RESPONDERS**
4. Persons who receive **DIALYSIS or CHEMOTHERAPY** in clinic settings
5. Persons who are **HOSPITALIZED**

Actions Requested of Healthcare Professionals:

1. **Identify** patients who may have COVID-19. **Clinical criteria** include **fever** (may be subjective) and/or symptoms of **acute lower respiratory illness** such as cough and shortness of breath.
2. **Isolate** patients with suspected disease and implement appropriate infection control including recommended PPE for health care workers (see website for more details).
3. **For priority patients** listed above:
 - **obtain a PUI#** from Contra Costa Public Health (or your Infectious Disease leads)
 - **complete the COVID-19 CMR form and CCPHL requisition form****
 - **send specimen with both forms to CCPHL**
4. **Test other** ambulatory patients **through commercial labs**:
 - Send specimens to a commercial lab
 - If COVID-19 result is positive, **report to CCPH** by submitting a completed COVID-19 CMR form (PUI number not required) by FAX to Contra Costa Public Health at (925) 313-6465.
5. **If you are concerned that an outbreak may be occurring in any congregate setting**, please call the Public Health immediately at 925-313-6740.

** CCPHL will accept and run tests on specimens ONLY if received with the completed COVID-19 CMR, including PUI #, and CCPH lab requisition form. Specimens cannot be tested without a PUI #.

