

COVID19 Testing Guidance for Healthcare Providers

Date: March 12th 2020

Recommendations for reporting, testing and specimen collection in patients under investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID19, SARS-CoV-2):

- Testing for COVID-19 is available for *symptomatic* UR Medicine patients based on the provider's clinical judgement.
- Testing of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic patients is strongly discouraged. At a minimum, patients should have influenza-like illness or febrile lower respiratory infection.
- Symptomatic patients are advised to stay home and call ahead to their provider's office if they require clinical evaluation and possible testing.
- If it is determined that the patient meets the criteria for testing:

Please order the test COVID-19PCR (COV19) and collect the following specimen:

- 1 Nasopharyngeal Swab and 1 Oralpharyngeal Swab placed together in Universal Transport Medium

Specimen collection and test information can be found in the [UR Medicine Labs Test Index](#)

- Testing through public health labs (NYSDOH, Erie Co PH Lab) is the preferred route for testing of the following symptomatic patients:
 - a. healthcare worker
 - b. first responder in public safety occupation (law enforcement, EMS, firefighter)
 - c. part of an illness cluster in a family or facility
 - d. exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case or travel to affected geographic area within 14 days prior to onset of illness (CDC level 3 travel advisory sites).
 - e. For patients in these groups, provider must call their local health department for approval of testing in a public health lab:
 - Monroe County Health Department: 585-753-5164 (off-hours: 585-753-5999)
 - Ontario County Health Department: 585-396-4343
 - Livingston County Health Department: 585-243-7299
 - Allegheny County Health Department: 585-268-9247
 - Steuben County Health Department: 607-664-2438 (off-hours: 1-800-836-4444)

If that testing is denied or otherwise unavailable, proceed as above for testing via UR Medicine Labs.

Send specimens UR Medicine Central Laboratory at 211 Bailey Road by calling Client Services at 750-0510 to request a courier pick up. Specimens should be transported using standard precautions.



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CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus site for healthcare providers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>

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