Maricopa County
Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Testing: Healthcare Provider Guidance (last updated 4/13/20)

COVID-19 testing

Testing for COVID-19 is available at:

- Arizona State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL) for patients who **meet the Persons Under Investigation (PUI) criteria** below **AND**
- At commercial laboratories (LabCorp, Quest Diagnostics, and others) and drive-through testing sites for patients **who do not meet PUI criteria** and healthcare providers would like to test. **Do not call Public Health to obtain this testing.**

To obtain approval for testing at ASPHL:

The patient must meet the PUI criteria below **AND** the provider must contact Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

Testing can be ordered by healthcare providers through commercial laboratories **without Public Health approval.** Healthcare providers should follow their facility's protocol for ordering send-out commercial laboratory tests.

Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Persons Under Investigation (PUI)

Clinical Features	Plus	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever[1] **OR** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) **NOT** requiring hospitalization	**AND**	Any person, including health care workers[2], who has had **close contact**[3] with a laboratory-confirmed[4] COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever[1] **OR** signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) **NOT** requiring hospitalization in a person with a critical/high-risk infrastructure occupation* **OR** who lives in a congregate setting† **OR** a child in foster care	**AND**	No source of exposure has been identified
Fever[1] **AND** severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) **requiring hospitalization, radiographic confirmation of pneumonia of unknown etiology**[5]	**AND**	No source of exposure has been identified

[1]Fever may be subjective or confirmed.
[2]For healthcare personnel, testing may be considered if there has been exposure to a person with suspected COVID-19 without laboratory confirmation
[3]Close contact is defined at the CDC website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html
[4]Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of COVID-19 may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.
[5]Consider obtaining testing for influenza and/or a viral respiratory panel
*Critical and high-risk infrastructure sectors include: School personnel, Childcare Workers, Jail/Prison personnel, Energy, Water Systems, Healthcare, First Responders, Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste. If a job is not listed, please see Arizona's List of "Essential Services".
†Jail/prison, long-term care facility or nursing home, university housing, or other similar setting

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For all patients who meet COVID-19 PUI criteria:

1) Healthcare personnel entering the room should **use droplet, contact, and standard precautions, plus eye protection** (e.g., goggles or a face shield) and **patients can be evaluated in a private room** with the door closed (unless performing aerosol-generating procedures, which should be performed in an AIIR);

2) Immediately **notify your healthcare facility's infection control personnel**;

3) If you are seeking approval for COVID-19 testing through the state public health laboratory **only**, **notify Maricopa County Department of Public Health** at (commercial testing does not require public health notification):
   a. **Monday–Friday 8AM–5PM** — call **(602) 506-6767** and ask for a Surveillance Nurse or;
   b. **After 5PM and on weekends** — call **(602) 747-7111** to speak with the Disease Reporting Line.

4) **Collect specimens for testing** for COVID-19:
   a. **Preferred specimen** - nasopharyngeal [NP] swab in universal/viral transport medium (**if transport medium is not available**, the NP swab can be placed in a sterile tube filled with sterile saline)
   b. Acceptable alternative specimens **if the patient is hospitalized** – oropharyngeal [OP] swab, lower respiratory specimen (e.g., BAL, tracheal aspirate)
   c. **The preferred method of shipment is frozen at -70 °C or below.** However, samples can be shipped refrigerated at 2-8 °C and are stable at this temperature up to 72 hours.

Critical Infrastructure

Healthcare

- Hospitals
- Clinics
- Dental offices
- Pharmacies
- Public health entities
- Long-term care facilities
- Residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disordered, and/or mental illness
- Transitional facilities
- Pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology companies
- Organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials
- Eye care centers
- Home healthcare services providers
- Mental health and substance use providers
- Other healthcare facilities and suppliers
- Providers of any related and/or ancillary healthcare services
- Entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains
- Manufacturers, technicians, logistics and warehouse operators, and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment, medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood, platelets and plasma products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products
- Veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals

First Responders

- All first responders
- Emergency management personnel
- Emergency dispatchers and those supporting 911 servies
- Law enforcement and corrections personnel

Nuclear Reactors

- All nuclear energy production-related jobs

Materials

- Food production, distributions, and sale
- Construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long-term care facilities, public works construction, and housing construction)
- Airport operations
- Operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer and gas
- Electrical (including power generations, distribution, and production of raw materials);
- Distribution centers
- Oil and biofuel refining
- Roads, highways, railroads and public transportation
- Hardware stores and businesses that sell electrical, plumbing, and heating materials.
- Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply other Essential Businesses and Operations with the support or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances
- IT and telecommunication equipment
- Hardware, paint, flat glass
- Electrical, plumbing and heating material
- Sanitary equipment
- Personal hygiene and products
- Food, food additives, ingredients and components
- Medical and orthopedic equipment
- Optics and photography equipment
- Diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent
- Firearm and ammunition suppliers and retailers for purposes of safety and security.

Waste

- Solid waste and recycling collection and removal
- Waste pickup and disposal