

COVID-19 LAB TESTING GUIDELINES

Riverside University Health System - Public Health
March 12, 2020

USE RUHS-PUBLIC HEALTH LAB

951.358.5107

Clinical Features

- Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)
- Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization
- Fever or severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)

AND

AND

AND

Epidemiologic Risk

- Any person, including healthcare workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
- A history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.
- No source of exposure has been identified

Testing swabs based on the above criteria must be sent to, and done in consultation with RUHS-PH lab for processing.

USE PRIVATE LAB

(Testing based on availability of private lab.)

Clinical Features (outpatient clinic testing Risk & ED Discharges)

- Fever or signs/symptoms of upper or lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) NOT requiring hospitalization
- Asymptomatic

AND

AND

Epidemiologic

- Local risk of exposure (physician judgement)
- Known close contact with confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 (physician discretion) OR a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.

These tests do not require approval from RUHS-PH lab beforehand; however, please fax (951.351.6838) the accompanying CDC PUI form (page 1 only) and patient demographic face sheet (with phone number and address). All positive tests must be followed by the ordering physician/health system AND reported to RUHS-Public Health at 951.358.5107.

SAMPLE ACQUISITION for PH lab: Both Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oropharyngeal (OP) swabs should be performed. Both samples can be placed in a single viral transport medium. For private lab: NP or OP can be sent.