



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

March 11, 2020

To: All North Carolina Clinicians and Laboratories
From: Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Scott Shone, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Public Health Laboratory Director
Re: **COVID-19 testing through LabCorp**

To facilitate greater access to testing for the SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, NC DHHS encourages providers to submit specimens to LabCorp when the following conditions are met:

- Fever AND signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND negative influenza test (rapid or PCR).

Guidance for testing at LabCorp is available at <https://www.labcorp.com/tests/139900/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-naa>. Clinicians should use their judgment to determine which patients are most in need of testing. NC DHHS does not recommend testing of asymptomatic patients for COVID-19.

As a reminder, all patients in whom COVID-19 is suspected must be isolated either at home or in the hospital depending on the need for medical care. An [isolation document](#) should be signed by the patient and provider and a copy provided to the patient.

Public health approval is not required for submission of specimens to LabCorp. However, physicians and laboratories in North Carolina are required to immediately report when novel coronavirus infection is reasonably suspected to exist. Providers should complete and submit the [person under investigation \(PUI\) form](#) to the patient's local health department at the time the test is ordered.

Detailed information for providers, including information about testing through the State Laboratory of Public Health and a link to the PUI form and isolation document, can be found at <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/coronavirus/providers.html>.

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