



ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH UPDATE COVID-19 Testing Changes – 3/6/2020

Alameda County healthcare providers should direct COVID-19 testing to commercial laboratories and other non-public health laboratories now offering COVID-19 testing. Providers may determine which patients are suspect COVID-19 cases using clinical judgement but should alert Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) regarding the priority cases listed below. ACPHD approval is no longer needed for testing.

Alameda County healthcare providers should use the procedure linked below to request COVID-19 testing by our Public Health Lab (ACPHL). Please limit testing requests by phone to the hours 9am-5pm, 7 days per week.

Situation

On March 4, 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC expanded criteria for COVID-19 testing](#)), and providers may now use clinical judgment to identify suspect cases. Large commercial laboratories and other non-public health referral laboratories are offering COVID-19 testing. Providers should send specimens to these laboratories. ACPHD approval is **NOT REQUIRED** for testing done at commercial laboratories. According to the California Department of Public Health, a CDC PUI number or COVID-19 ID number is also not required for testing at these facilities.

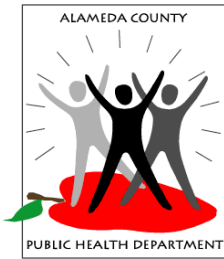
ACTIONS REQUESTED OF PROVIDERS

- 1. Direct COVID-19 testing to commercial laboratories** and other non-public health laboratories now offering COVID-19 testing, when possible.
- 2. Request COVID-19 testing by ACPHL using procedure linked to below.**
- 3. Report priority suspect COVID-19 cases to ACPHD:**
 - Persons with suspected COVID-19 and exposure to a known case
 - Persons with suspected COVID-19 and recent travel to an [area with CDC Level 3 travel warning](#)
 - Healthcare workers with suspected COVID-19 and exposure to a known or suspected case
 - Symptomatic persons with travel on the Grand Princess Cruise from San Francisco February 11-21
- 4. Report all newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases** by telephone within one hour. COVID-19 is a novel virus infection with pandemic potential, thus confirmed cases are reportable by providers and laboratories as required per Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2500.
- 5. Ensure specimens from your facility go to appropriate laboratory.**

To request COVID-19 testing at the ACPHL, go to <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/clinicians.aspx> and click on the interim instructions for [COVID-19 Testing at the Alameda County Public Health Department](#). ACPHL performs testing on weekdays only. Phone requests will only be received during the hours 9am-5pm, 7 days per week. ACPHD will prioritize testing based on the highest risk of exposure including **close contact** (household or health care worker) with a lab confirmed case, **history of travel to an area with CDC Level 3 travel warning**, or **travel on the Grand Princess Cruise ship** within 14 days of symptom onset.

Local Health Department Reporting and Contact Information

- **Alameda County Acute Communicable Disease Control:**
 - Weekdays 8:30am–5pm Phone: (510) 267-3250



**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Colleen Chawla, Director
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1000 Broadway, Ste 500
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- After hours Phone: (925) 422-7595 and ask for the public health duty officer on call
- For **non-immediate concerns**, email nCoV@acgov.org
- **Berkeley Public Health Division:**
 - Weekdays 8am-5pm Phone: (510) 981-5292
 - After hours: Phone: (510) 981-5911 and ask for the Health Officer on call
- [Contact Information for all other Local Health Jurisdictions](#) is available online from CDPH

Resources

- [ACPHD Health Alert Page](#) & [ACPHD COVID-19 Page](#)
- [CDPH COVID-19 Page](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Page](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Page](#)