COVID 19 GUIDANCE:

INTRODUCTION:

The Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL) is currently testing for COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. The following information outlines how to submit specimens to the WPHL’s for COVID-19.

UPDATED INFORMATION: (New information highlighted in blue)

Providers no longer need to call WDH for approval to send specimen samples to the WPHL, but still need to submit the online requisition form. Furthermore, only nasopharyngeal swabs are needed for testing; oropharyngeal swabs are no longer required.

Testing Recommendations

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 is now available at LabCorp, Quest, and ARUP. Current turnaround times are unknown, but if clinicians wish to test a patient who does not meet one of our priority criteria, we are recommending that they consider sending specimen samples to one of these reference labs.

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<th>Priority</th>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>Epidemiologic Risk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fever 1 or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)</td>
<td>And any person, including healthcare workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<td>Hospitalized patients with fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness and negative testing for influenza (and negative testing on a respiratory viral panel, if available)</td>
<td>And a history of travel from affected geographic areas (countries with a level 3 or level 2 travel health notice) within 14 days of symptom onset</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Hospitalized patients with fever and severe acute respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia, ARDS) without alternative explanatory diagnosis (such as more likely infectious or cardiac etiologies) and negative testing for influenza (and negative testing on a respiratory virus panel, if available)</td>
<td>And no source of exposure has been identified</td>
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<td>Patients with fever and signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness and negative testing for influenza (and negative testing on a respiratory virus panel, if available)</td>
<td>And a history of travel from affected geographic areas (countries with a level 3 or level 2 travel health notice) within 14 days of symptom onset Or Persons &gt;65 years and/or persons with underlying health conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, chronic lung disease, etc.)</td>
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**WPHEL TESTING SCHEDULE:**
The Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHEL) will test samples from patients who do not meet one of our priority criteria, but turnaround times cannot be guaranteed. WPHEL will not test samples for asymptomatic patients.

**SAMPLE COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT:**
- The WPHEL tests nasopharyngeal swabs. Oropharyngeal swabs are not required for testing.
- Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.
- Place each swab immediately into a sterile tube containing 2 – 3 mL of viral transport media.
- Refrigerate specimens at 2 - 8°C and ship overnight to WPHEL with sufficient ice packs to keep the specimens cold throughout transport. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below and then ship on dry ice.
- Specimens must be shipped in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulation or UN 3373 Biological Substance, Category B. For assistance with how to ship according to UN3373 guidelines, contact WPHEL.

**SAMPLE SUBMISSION:**
Testing at the WPHEL no longer needs to be approved by the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). All providers submitting a sample to WPHEL must complete and submit the online requisition form found at https://is.gd/wdh_covid19. If you do not complete the online form your sample will not be tested. This form must be submitted, printed, and sent with the specimen to the WPHEL.

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:**
For questions about COVID-19 and testing

307-777-5824