

WPHL COVID-19 GUIDANCE:

INTRODUCTION: The Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL) is currently testing for COVID-19, (SARS-CoV-2). Community transmission and outbreaks are occurring in multiple locations throughout the state. The following information is based from the most current WARN/HAN message distributed on June 22, 2020, and outlines:

- Provider Testing Recommendations
- Testing at the WPHL
- Testing Procedures for WPHL
- Shipping/Notes on Shipping: WYDOT vs FedEx on weekends
- Obtaining Shipping Supplies from WPHL
- Test Results
- Reporting Persons With Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 to WDH

COVID-19 TESTING

Provider Testing Recommendations

- WDH recommends that providers test all patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 for SARS-CoV-2 infection with an authorized nucleic acid detection assay. Symptoms of COVID-19 are found on CDC's website: [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#). Authorized diagnostic assays can be found on FDA's website: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Emergency Use Authorizations for Medical Devices](#)
- All close contacts of persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection should be tested as soon as possible, regardless of symptoms. Contacts who are asymptomatic when first tested may need to be tested again if they develop symptoms. Contacts with negative results must still remain in quarantine for the full 14 days.
- All neonates born to women with COVID-19 should be tested, regardless of whether there are signs of infection in the neonate.
- Serologic assays should not be used as the sole basis for diagnosis of acute infection and are not approved by the FDA for diagnostic purposes. Serologic tests cannot be used to determine if a person is immune. Serologic tests cannot be used to make decisions about grouping persons residing in or being admitted to congregate settings, about returning persons to the workplace, or to change clinical practice or use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Symptomatic individuals should receive a molecular test to determine if they are currently infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- Detailed testing guidance from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) can be found at this link: [Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Diagnosis of COVID-19](#)

Testing at the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL)

The WPHL will accept all samples from symptomatic patients, close contacts of persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection, neonates born to women with COVID-19, and post-mortem swabs from individuals suspected to have COVID-19. In addition, WPHL will accept samples collected through epidemiological investigations in congregate and other high-risk settings. WPHL continues to recommend that providers send samples from patients who test negative on the Abbott ID Now platform to WPHL for testing. Note that a sample used on the Abbott platform cannot be sent to WPHL; a second nasopharyngeal swab must be collected, placed in viral transport media, and be submitted to the WPHL.

Testing Procedures at the WPHL

Clinicians should take the following steps to submit samples:

1. Fill out the WDH COVID-19 sample submission form at this link: https://is.gd/wdh_covid19. This is a secure, HIPAA-compliant system. **Once filled out, the information should be printed out and included with the shipped samples.**

Be sure to “submit” the form after printing. Samples will not be tested if the form is not completed and sent with the specimen to the WPHL.

2. Clinicians should collect only one nasopharyngeal (NP) swab. Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts. Please ensure the swab you are using is appropriate for NP samples. Place the swab immediately into a sterile tube containing 1-3 mL of viral transport media. Specimens that will arrive within 72 hours of collection should be refrigerated at 2-8°C and shipped to the WPHL with sufficient ice packs to keep the specimen cold until it arrives. If 72 hours or more will elapse between specimen collection and arrival at the WPHL, samples should be frozen at -70°C or below and shipped on enough dry ice to ensure samples arrive frozen. Do not place dry ice in the orange-top shipping canisters.
3. Specimen tubes should be labeled with the patient name, date of birth, sample type, date of sample collection, and patient medical record number (MRN). Patient name, date of birth, and MRN need to match exactly the patient name, date of birth, and MRN on the online form submitted to WDH to avoid delays.

Shipping Samples to WPHL

- Specimens should be shipped overnight to the WPHL at 208 S. College Dr., Cheyenne, WY, 82007. The WPHL provides FedEx labels for shipments going to WPHL as Priority Overnight (Mondays through Thursdays Only); labels can be requested at this link: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/lab/>.
- In areas where FedEx is not an option, you may print a UPS label by logging into UPS (www.ups.com; username: *ClientWPHL*, password: *Bluebird208*) and creating a shipment.
- Specimens **must be shipped as a Category B (Biological Substance) shipment**. Laboratory personnel at healthcare facilities should be familiar with how to properly package and label a Category B shipment. If assistance is required, please contact the WPHL at 307-777-7431.
- Category B Shipping Instructions can be found here: <https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/cat-b-shipping-instructions-2.3.pdf>
- Long-term care facilities shipping as a coordinated effort to National Jewish Health can request a FedEx label at: <https://tinyurl.com/WYLTCF>.

*****Samples shipped on Friday cannot be shipped using the labels available on the WPHL website. These samples need to be shipped via FedEx Priority Overnight Shipping and clearly marked Saturday Delivery on the FedEx label request. Please email WPHL@wyo.gov to obtain a Saturday delivery label, and include your name, address, package type, weight, and whether the package includes dry ice in the email.***** NOTE: SHIPPING FRIDAY SAMPLES FOR SATURDAY DELIVERY VIA FED EX ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO ARRIVE NEXT DAY ON SATURDAY! IT IS ADVISED TO SHIP ALL SAMPLES TO WPHL USING THE WYDOT SATURDAY PICK UP FOR YOUR COMMUNITY!
IT IS ADVISED TO USE WYDOT WEEKEND COURIER SERVICES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY FOR SAMPLES COLLECTED ON FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY.

On Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays, WYDOT is picking up samples from locations across the state and driving them to Cheyenne. Sample pick-up will occur once per day. Pick up times and locations have been shared with hospitals and are posted to the WPHL website ([Public Health Laboratory](#)).

Obtaining Shipping Supplies from WPHL

The WPHL will continue to distribute sample collection kits containing swabs and viral transport media through county and tribal health offices.

The WPHL will provide shipping orange-top infectious disease canisters, FedEx Lab Paks, and ice packs that can be used for shipping. These supplies should only be used for shipping specimens to WPHL. To request these, please complete WPHL's [Supply Order Form](#). Mark "Others", specify what you need sent, and follow the submission instructions. Guidance for collecting and shipping laboratory samples can also be found here: [WPHL](#). For additional questions about COVID-19 testing procedures, please contact the WPHL at 307-777-7431.

Test Results

All WPHL test reports will be delivered by fax to the fax number provided in the WDH REDCap COVID-19 sample submission form. WDH will not report back negative results to patients on behalf of providers. If your facility needs results on a specimen you submitted, please email wdh-covid-results@wyo.gov. Please make sure your email includes enough identifying information on your patient and on the requester so we can comply with HIPAA.

REPORTING PERSONS WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 TO WDH

The WDH receives positive test results directly from WPHL. **Providers and laboratories must report positive laboratory tests from commercial reference laboratories to WDH by faxing copies of the laboratory report form to 307-777-5573.**

Providers should also report persons who are part of a cluster of 3 or more possible or confirmed cases in a residential congregate setting that serves more vulnerable populations such as a long term care facility, assisted living facility, group home, homeless shelter, or correctional settings.

The WDH is utilizing the following case definitions for COVID-19 patients:

- **Confirmed-** a patient with detection of SARS-CoV-2 in a clinical specimen using a molecular amplification detection test.
- **Probable-** a person with illness consistent with COVID-19 and close contact to a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 OR a person with illness consistent with COVID-19 and close contact to another person who has both illness consistent with COVID-19 and close contact to a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19.