



Public Health Department

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Health Advisory

To: Healthcare Providers and Facilities
From: Andy Miller, M.D. (signed original on file)
Date: April 17, 2020
Re: Outpatient COVID-19 Testing in Butte County

Update:

As of April 17, 2020 at 8am, Butte County has 16 cases of COVID-19. In an effort to provide the most up-to-date information the Butte County Department of Public Health (BCPH) would like to alert you to updated information regarding the capacity to provide outpatient COVID-19 testing by commercial labs in Butte County. The outpatient testing capacity by commercial labs for COVID-19 in Butte County has increased. We need more testing to detect all cases of COVID-19 in Butte County so we can more effectively isolate and quarantine as required.

With the increase in capacity to test in an outpatient setting, BCPH would like to encourage medical providers to evaluate and test symptomatic patients. You may reach out to your preferred commercial lab provider to obtain the required specimen collection kits to submit the testing. If you are unable to collect specimens in your office, you can refer patients to Ampla Health Clinics in Chico, Oroville and Gridley. In order to refer to Ampla Health please use the following steps:

- Alert Ampla to the referral of a symptomatic patient and why the test is requested
- Have your patient call Ampla prior to arrival so their staff can be prepared with PPE

Of course, resource availability could change and we will continue to monitor this and make changes to prioritization of testing as needed. We will keep the medical community informed. Below are links to resources that have been shared previously regarding testing and prioritization issued by CDPH and CDC.

Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

CDPH Guidance for Prioritization of Patients for Laboratory Testing of COVID-19

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/GuidanceforPrioritizationofPatientsforLaboratoryTestingforCOVID19.aspx>

CDC and CDPH guidance changes frequently as this situation evolves. Please be sure to check CDPH and CDC websites often for updated guidance documents.

Categories of urgency levels:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.