



## 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 24, 2020  
Re: Testing

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### **Update:**

**As of April 24, 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 information on COVID-19 testing. Governor Newsom and the Testing Task Force are committed to expanding testing across California. The expanded testing will help protect vulnerable groups and better understand the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Below is some important information regarding the topic of testing.

### **Importance of employing an FDA approved test.**

Providers are urged to use only FDA approved laboratory tests. Many tests are being marketed for use in the detection of SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19. Some are falsely claiming to be reviewed or authorized by FDA. A complete list of tests that have FDA Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) can be found at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization#covidinvitrodev>

### **Understand that serological tests are not useful as a diagnostic test**

Serology tests for SARS CoV-2 should not be used to definitively diagnose or exclude SARS-CoV-2 infection and results should be interpreted with caution.

In COVID-19, antibody development takes at least 7-11 days sometimes longer <https://mbio.asm.org/content/11/2/e00722-20>. A negative antibody result does NOT rule out infection. False positive results are also possible due to past or present infection with other coronavirus strains. Furthermore, at this time, it remains unclear as to whether the presence of SARS-CoV-2 specific antibodies can reliably determine if someone is no longer infectious or if a person can be considered to be immune to reinfection.

### **Local PCR Specimen Collection or Testing Site and Resources**

**Ampla Health** is providing specimen collection from 1-3pm daily in Chico, Oroville and Gridley by provider referral. Please call Ampla if a referral is made and provide the reason for referral. The patient should also be directed to call ahead to let Ampla know they are coming.

Any provider may collect specimens for PCR testing and send to a number of commercial reference labs, such as Lab Corp and Quest. Please contact those labs for more information.

The **Butte County Public Health Lab** continues to accept specimens upon consultation from health care providers for persons who meet CDPH criteria. Currently, specimens are being sent to Public Health labs in Shasta County and Richmond for testing. We are hopeful that our Public Health Lab will be processing PCR specimens the first week of May. An announcement will be made once we are ready to begin performing PCR testing in our local lab.

### **Requirement for testing notification and Reporting**

#### **Notification of Testing**

Any laboratory that provides COVID-19 testing in California must notify the CDPH Laboratory Field Services (LFS) by sending an email to [LFSCOV1D@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:LFSCOV1D@cdph.ca.gov). **This includes laboratories associated with health care facilities and physician offices.** Please see the CDPH Laboratory Field Services webpage for additional information:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>.

#### **Reporting**

Per Title 17, California Code of Regulations (17 CCR) section 2500 and 2505, SARS-CoV-2 laboratory results (positive, negative, and inconclusive) must be reported **within one hour** to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides, by telephone AND through the Electronic Laboratory Reporting system (ELR). All facilities, including providers offices, offering COVID-19 testing must set up a mechanism to report laboratory test results to the CDPH via CalREDIE.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/LFSCOV1D19ltr-1.pdf>

To reach Butte County Public Health Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm please call 530-552-3929. After hours you may call 530-332-2462

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

### **Interim Guidance for Collecting, Handling and Testing Clinical Specimens from persons for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

### **Expanding Access to Testing: Updated Interim Guidance on Prioritization of COVID 19 Lab Testing**

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-44.aspx>

#### **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.