



## 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 30, 2020  
Re: COVID-19 Symptom update and Testing

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### Update:

**As of April 30, 2020 at 8am, Butte County has 16 cases of COVID-19.** The Butte County Public Health Department (BCPH) would like to update you on COVID-19 symptoms and testing.

### Symptom Updates

The CDC has expanded the list of symptoms associated with COVID-19 to include chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell in addition to fever cough, and shortness of breath/ difficulty breathing. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

### Testing Prioritization

Current CDPH COVID-19 viral laboratory testing guidelines greatly expand testing eligibility to include symptomatic patients with mild to moderate illness not requiring hospitalization and asymptomatic healthcare workers. The CDPH testing priority groups can be found at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Expanding-Access-to-Testing-Updated-Guidance-on-Prioritization-for-COVID-19-Testing.aspx>

***Note that diagnostic testing should always be performed by testing for virus; antibody tests are not useful for diagnostic purposes.***

### Expanded Local Testing Resources

- 1) The **Butte County Public Health (BCPH) Lab** now has expanded viral testing capacity with an 8 – 24 hr turnaround time for patients meeting high risk criteria, including, but not limited to, symptomatic healthcare workers, hospitalized patients, and residents of congregate living settings. To request testing at BCPH Lab call 530-552-3929 Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm. After hours and weekends you may call 530-332-2462.
- 2) Butte County is hosting one of 80 statewide viral specimen collection sites operated by **Optum Serve** at the Silver Dollar Fairgrounds beginning Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> patients and asymptomatic healthcare workers can schedule an appointment M – F, 7:00am to 7:00pm for viral specimen collection by accessing: <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>. For patients with no internet access, registration by phone can be completed by calling 888-634-1123.

- 3) **Ampla Health** is providing viral specimen collection from 1-3pm daily in Chico, Oroville and Gridley by provider referral. To make a referral, call Ampla with the reason for referral. Also, direct the patient to call Ampla to alert them of their arrival.
- 4) Additionally, any provider may collect viral specimens for PCR testing and send to a commercial reference lab such as Lab Corp or Quest. Please contact those labs directly for more information and specimen collection kits. See: 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>

## **COVID-19 Case and Laboratory Result Reporting Requirements**

### **Notification of Testing**

Any laboratory that conducts COVID-19 testing must notify the CDPH Laboratory Field Services (LFS) at [LFSCoVID@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:LFSCoVID@cdph.ca.gov). **This includes laboratories associated with health care facilities and physician offices.** See the CDPH LFS webpage at:

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

### **Reporting**

For providers performing in office test, please be aware that per Title 17, California Code of Regulations (17 CCR) section 2505, SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) laboratory results (positive, negative, and inconclusive) must be reported daily to the local health officer for the jurisdiction where the patient resides, by telephone AND through the Electronic Laboratory Reporting system (ELR). If ELR is not possible, facilities may fax the lab results to the local health department while working to establish electronic lab reporting.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OSPHLD/LFS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/LFSCoVID19ltr-1.pdf>.

Under 17 CCR, section 2500, cases of Covid-19 are immediately reportable by phone to the local health department. Your prompt reporting will help BCPH institute rapid case investigation and contact tracing in efforts to stop any further transmission of COVID-19.

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.*

### **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.