



Public Health Department

Danette York, M.P.H., Director
Andy Miller, M.D., Health Officer

Community Health – Communicable Diseases/Oroville

202 Mira Loma Drive
Oroville, California 95965

T: 530.552.3929
F: 530.538.5387

buttecounty.net/publichealth

Health Advisory

To: Healthcare Providers

From: Andy Miller, M.D. (signed original on file)

Date: March 26, 2020

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

Update:

As of March 26, 2020 at 8am, Butte County has 5 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 provide you with the following information regarding CDPH Guidance for Prioritization of Patients for Laboratory Testing for COVID-19. CDC and CDPH guidance changes frequently as this situation evolves. Please be sure to check CDPH and CDC websites often for updated guidance documents.

A new guidance document was issued by CDPH on 03/20/2020 after the Health Advisory that we sent out regarding prioritization of patients for laboratory testing for COVID-19. Testing for COVID-19 is now available in a number of public health, commercial and hospital laboratories in California, however broad scale testing is not available. This guidance is intended to support health care providers and laboratories in determining testing prioritization. Persons who may be considered for testing depending on clinical severity and community health relevance include:

1. Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in order to inform decisions related to infection control or medical management.
2. Residents and staff of long-term care facilities with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
3. Other persons who are at higher risk for severe infection with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19. These persons include older adults (age ≥ 65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions.
4. Residents and staff of correctional facilities and other congregate settings with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.
5. Healthcare personnel with signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

The entire guidance document can be accessed with the link below.

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