

Date: March 18, 2020  
To: Medical Care Providers, Healthcare Facilities  
From: Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH, Health Officer

Please distribute to all providers and relevant medical staff in your office.

## Health Alert

### Coronavirus Disease 2019 – Update 3

There have been five COVID-19 cases in Stanislaus County and community transmission of COVID-19 has been identified in many areas of the United States, including nearby California counties.

Testing for COVID-19 is now available at our public health laboratory, the San Joaquin Public Health Laboratory, and through some commercial labs. However, testing remains constrained due to shortages of various supplies. Please see below the criteria for testing in Stanislaus County. Stanislaus County Public Health is not able to obtain specimens for testing or evaluate patients directly.

People with mild illness who are not at risk for severe disease do not need testing; they can be provided routine home care instructions for mild viral respiratory tract infections and counselled to stay home as much as possible for the duration of their illness. Patients who are being tested should be presumed to be infectious and given instructions for strict home isolation until they receive a negative test result.

### Guidance for Stanislaus County Clinicians:

#### Indications for testing at the public health laboratory – contact public health for PUI number

1. Any person with close contact to a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset AND fever OR signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath).
2. Any person with a history of travel from an area where sustained community transmission has been identified within 14 days of symptom onset AND fever AND signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness requiring hospitalization.
3. A person with fever AND signs/symptoms of severe acute lower respiratory illness requiring hospitalization and without an alternative explanatory diagnosis.
4. Part of a cluster of 2 or more cases of acute respiratory illness within a 72-hour period in persons residing in a congregate living setting.

#### Suggested criteria for commercial laboratory COVID-19 testing – no need to contact public health

Patients with fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) not requiring hospitalization who:

- Are ≥60 age or have chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease)
- Have history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of their symptom onset
- Have other exposure risk as indicated by the patient's history and clinical judgment and who do not have alternative diagnosis (e.g. negative rapid influenza test)

#### Report COVID -19 positive cases to Stanislaus County Public Health immediately

- Monday - Friday 8 AM – 5 PM call (209) 558-5678
- Afterhours and weekends, call (209) 664-6032

**Additional Information:**

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC: Evaluating and testing persons for COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

CDC: COVID-19 Travel: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/>

CDC: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare settings: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html)

CDPH: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Stanislaus County Health Services Agency: <http://schsa.org/PublicHealth/pages/corona-virus/>

Stanislaus County Public Health Communicable Disease Program: call (209) 558-5678

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