



Health Alert Network Message 20-10: Update of COVID-19 Testing Criteria & Movement & Monitoring Guidance

Origination Date:
March 6, 2020

Revision Dates (list all revision dates):

Louisiana Office of Public Health COVID-19 Testing Criteria Update

The Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) Laboratory has the capacity to conduct laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). As of March 6, 2020, the criteria for SARS-CoV-2 testing through the OPH Laboratory has been expanded. SARS-CoV-2 testing is now available for non-hospitalized patients with clinical features consistent with COVID-19 who also have a recent travel history to an area with sustained community transmission of COVID-19. **Approval for testing must be obtained from the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section (800-256-2748) prior to sample submission.**

The testing criteria below are subject to change according to the availability of laboratory testing and updated epidemiologic information. Testing of samples for non-hospitalized patients may be delayed according to the volume of samples and changes in testing availability.

Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas ² within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS [acute respiratory distress syndrome]) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)	AND	No identified source of exposure

1 Measured as $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$.

2 Affected geographic areas are defined as countries assigned a level 2 or 3 travel health notice by CDC or other areas determined to have sustained community transmission.

The availability of diagnostic testing for COVID-19 through commercial laboratories is increasing. **Providers should immediately report positive COVID-19 commercial laboratory results laboratory results to the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section at 800-256-2748.**

Immediately contact the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) Infectious Disease Epidemiology Hotline at 1-800-256-2748 if you suspect a patient with COVID-19.

Click [here](#), to access the Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment document produced by CDC.