

PDL UPDATE: Important Updates on COVID-19

March 23, 2020

RESPONDING TO STATE OF EMERGENCY

Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories continues to take steps to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. PDL's primary focus continues to be the safety of the public, patients, healthcare providers, and our employees. Healthcare providers should follow CDC and Public Health guidelines on determining appropriate testing. As the situation is very dynamic, it is important to check for updates frequently.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), NAA PDL Lab Code: LAB10716

Referred to LabCorp

Turnaround Time: 3-4 days

Specimen Type/Container: *Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs in viral transport medium (preferred)*, eSwab™, or saline. Note: NP Swab in UTM is required if the Respiratory Panel PCR is ordered on the same specimen.

Also acceptable: Oropharyngeal (OP) collection in viral transport medium, eSwab™, or saline, OP or NP washes/aspirates, bronchial washing or bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) in sterile cups

Swabs in Saline: OP or NP swabs (cotton or synthetic tip ONLY – no calcium alginate tips, wood shaft swab or swabs in preservative) placed in 1 to 3 mL of sterile saline (0.85- 0.9%) in a screw cap tube.

RESPIRATORY PANEL BY PCR W/ REFLEX COVID-19 PDL Lab Code: LAB10721

Performed by PDL

Reflex: *COVID-19 LAB10716 to LabCorp if panel is NEGATIVE*

Turnaround Time: Performed the same day as received; acute care testing takes priority.

Specimen Type/Container: *Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport medium (UTM or M5)*

SPECIMEN COLLECTION: To be done by a physician or other healthcare provider.

- PDL does NOT do NP collections.
- Do not direct suspect COVID-19 patients to a Patient Service Center.

COLLECTION SUPPLIES: Universal Transport Media (UTM) kits with Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab

- Respiratory Panel and COVID-19 can be done off of ONE NP collection
- Allocation measures are in place due to a national supply shortage.

RESULTS:

- COVID-19 Positive will be called as a CRITICAL result.
- Providers are required to report positive results to their local Public Health Department.

SUPPORT: PDL Sales Representatives are now working remotely.

- Reach out to your sales representative via cell phone or email.
- PDL Client Services is available 24/7 at (805) 879-8100

RESOURCES/INFORMATION AVAILABLE

- Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- California Public Health (CDPH): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>
- Cottage Health: <https://www.cottagehealth.org/about/newsroom/2020/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- SB County Public Health: <https://www.countyofsb.org/phd/dcp/novel-corona-virus.sbc>
- SLO County Public Health: <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Public-Health.aspx>
- Ventura County Public Health: <https://www.ventura.org/covid19/>