

Corona Virus Testing-Updated Information

Effective Date: March 2, 2020

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is now offering a COVID-19 (also known as SARS-CoV2) test under an Emergency Use Authorization for the State of Michigan. The following guidelines must be observed:

1. Samples for persons under investigation (PUI) should only be forwarded to MDHHS BOL upon approval from the Local Health Department jurisdictions and the MDHHS Bureau of Epidemiology. No testing will be performed on any samples that have not been approved and assigned a PUI number by the county or state health laboratory.
2. Acceptable samples are upper and lower respiratory specimens (NP, OP, and sputum if attainable).
3. Specimens should be shipped on ice using Category B packaging. Also include the Michigan Laboratory Test Requisition (DCH-0583). On that form, select "Other" in the "Tests that require MDHHS approval" section and write in COVID-19.
4. MDHHS will start testing by 10 AM. Samples must arrive at the MDHHS laboratory before that time. If they arrive later, they will be held for testing the following day. Specimens with appropriate approval may be received and tested on weekends.
5. Beaumont's couriers are available to transport specimens to MDHHS. Allow a minimum of 2 hours travel time to MDHHS from any Beaumont laboratory.
6. Presumptive positives will be called to facilities and forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for additional testing

Laboratory Safety Guidance:

1. Clinical samples should be handled using Standard Precautions at BSL-2.
2. Any sample manipulation that may produce aerosols or droplets (e.g., vortexing, centrifuging, pipetting) should be performed in a certified Class II biosafety cabinet.
3. Extra precautions should be taken when manipulating samples outside of a biosafety cabinet. These include additional PPE (e.g., mask, respirator, face shield) or other physical barriers (eg. splash shields, sealed centrifuge rotors) to prevent exposure to laboratory personnel.
4. If specimens are processed for other testing prior to submission to MDHHS, decontaminate work surfaces and equipment with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant, following the recommendations for its use.
5. Additional information can be found on the CDC website at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html>

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Laboratory Bulletin

Corona Virus Transportation to MDHHS			
<p>Laboratory will own getting the specimens to the MDHHS. Please call the number below. Depending on the time of day, we will either find a resource to transport to MDHHS or we will send with the MDHHS courier to ensure it is at MDHHS for testing by 10 am. The lab must be notified by 7:30 am if urgent transport is needed. We may move the specimen to RO or Dearborn depending on whether the Beaumont courier or MDHHS courier will transport the specimen. If you feel you are not getting an appropriate answer, contact Joan Wehby, Lab Outreach and Ambulatory System Director, at 313-819-7677 for assistance.</p>			
Lab Couriers	248-551-1155, option 5	Call Royal Oak Lab Customer Service and provide the following information. This department is open 24/7.	Identify that it is a STAT Corona specimen for MDHHS. Name of the patient. Current location of the specimen. Has it been approved by MDHHS?
MDHHS Couriers	Dearborn M-F pick up at 5:00 pm Sunday 12:00 pm	Royal Oak M-F pick up at 2:15 pm Sunday 12:00 pm	

For additional questions about testing, please contact Beaumont Laboratory. For questions about specimen transport to MDHHS, please contact Client Services at 248-551-1151.

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