

UKID COVID-19 Team Laboratory Testing Guidelines

There are currently two options for COVID-19 testing for patients at UK HealthCare. Those include Real Time PCR through the Kentucky Department of Public Health (KDPH) Division of Laboratory Services and Viracor Reference Laboratory. Tests can be sent through Viracor without any approval process although IPAC should be notified for tracking purposes. Tests sent through the KDPH must be approved by the state epidemiologist on call prior to placing an order. Instructions are outlined below.

UKHC In-House Laboratory Testing

- Laboratory testing through UKHC in-house is preferred for outpatients. This can be ordered and sent without any approval process.
 - Test name is SARS CoV2/COVID19 in AEHR or SCM and the test code is COVID in SunQuest
- Based on updated guidance from the CDC and KDPH, collect one NP swab and place in Viral Transport Media.
 - Submit ONE Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab
 - DO NOT submit OP swab
 - DO NOT submit multiple specimens of the same type.
- *There are limited collection supplies (swabs, VTM), and this is a measure to conserve supplies across hospital systems.*
- Please be sure to label specimen tube with patient name, date of collection and source.
- Store and transport specimen(s) at room temperature
- **Turn-around time expected to be 2 - 3 days** from date of specimen collection
- Results are interfaced and will appear in the AHER once resultd
- A daily electronic report of all results will be automatically emailed to IPAC

KDPH Laboratory Testing

- KDPH testing is preferred for hospitalized patients due to a shorter turn-around time.
- An approval is required by the on call state epidemiologist before tests can be ordered. Providers must call 502-564-3261 during normal business hours or 888-973-7678 after hours and on weekends to get approval.
 - Providers must fill out the CDC PUI form and fax to the state epidemiologist after approval is obtained.
 - Provider must also fill out laboratory form that should accompany specimens to our lab.
 - Forms are available on the infection prevention website. (Careweb -> Infection Prevention tab (left handside))
- Once form is completed, scan an email to Kim Blanton at kblanton3@uky.edu
 - Alternatively, call IPAC at 323-6337 or contact on call Infection Preventionist through lightning bolt to let them know a test is being pursued and a form has been completed.
- Order Test as a "Referred Test" in AEHR or SCM and in the comment box, state:
 - **"COVID-19 test – send to KDPH"**
 - List Kentucky Approval Number in the comment box. This will be given to you by the state representative approving the test.
 - The only specimen source accepted is now an NP swab in viral transport media

- Ensure all specimens are labeled with two identifiers, the specimen source and date of collection.
- Please be sure to **label specimen tube with patient name, date of collection and source.**
- Print the Referred Test requisition(s), place in pocket on the **outside of the specimen bag** and send to the lab with the specimen(s).
- **Turn around time is expected to be 1 day** from date of specimen collection

The CDC currently states that physicians should use clinical judgment to determine when to test. Guidance has been developed for inpatients and those being evaluated in the ED.

If a decision is made to test and discharge, the patient should be advised to self isolate until the test result is available. The Health Department for the patients home address should be notified by the clinical team prior to patient discharge that testing was performed and is currently pending.