



State Hygienic Laboratory

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Update on COVID-19 Testing at the State Hygienic Laboratory

02/19/2021

PCR Testing

SHL will perform PCR testing at no cost to the submitter. All qualifying testing criteria has been lifted, so SHL will test all submitted specimens.

To order test kits and for additional information visit: <https://covidtesting.shl.uiowa.edu/>

Serology Testing

SHL continues to perform serology (antibody) testing at no cost to the submitter. All qualifying testing criteria for serology testing has also been lifted, so SHL will test all submitted specimens.

For additional information visit: <https://covidtesting.shl.uiowa.edu/>

Sequencing Surveillance (to identify variant strains)

SHL is conducting variant strain surveillance in partnership with established influenza surveillance sites across the state. Identified clinics and hospitals that participate in influenza surveillance are voluntarily submitting PCR positive specimens (with Ct's less than 30) for COVID-19 sequencing.

Healthcare providers may consider submitting PCR positive specimens (with Ct's less than 30) to SHL for COVID-19 sequencing surveillance when patients meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Patient tests PCR positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of traveling internationally
- Patient tests PCR positive for COVID-19 and is a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of traveling internationally
- Patient with suspected repeat infection (tests PCR positive for COVID-19 greater than 90 days after an initial positive result AND is newly symptomatic) AND who received monoclonal antibody therapy, convalescent plasma therapy, or antiviral drugs (including remdesivir) during their initial infection
- Patient tests PCR positive after completing their COVID-19 vaccine series (the positive PCR test was collected more than 2 weeks after the patient completed their vaccine series)

To submit specimens for sequencing surveillance, healthcare providers should call IDPH for preapproval and submission instructions at 800-362-2736, press 1. Sequencing surveillance preapprovals will be processed M-F from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

Sequence testing is not currently FDA approved, therefore submitting healthcare providers will not receive sequencing results as this is not a test currently intended for clinical decision-making. Updates to these processes will continue to be made as needed.

For additional information about testing available through the State Hygienic Laboratory, please visit: <https://covidtesting.shl.uiowa.edu/>