



COVID-19 CDC Recommendations

March 13, 2020

Dear Valued Client,

We launched our COVID-19 testing today. We continue to fill supply orders based on available inventory and we will have additional kits available for clients who have initiated testing with Boston Heart.

Centers of Disease Control (CDC) has published guidance for testing and this guidance may be found on their website. Please consider tracking their updates during this crisis.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

Patient Selection Guidance:

*"Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever (CDC considers a person to have a **fever** when he or she has a measured temperature of at least 100.4 °F [38 °C]) and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)."*

The CDC also suggests prioritizing patients that are at a higher risk due to hospitalization, individuals who have come into contact with another person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis and "Other symptomatic individuals such as, older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., **diabetes, heart disease**, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease)."

Test Recommendation

The CDC also recommends broad virus target testing, so our viral panel, in addition to COVID-19 test, may provide a solution. You may order both tests on a single swab.

"There are epidemiologic factors that may also help guide decisions about COVID-19 testing. Documented COVID-19 infections in a jurisdiction and known community transmission may contribute to an epidemiologic risk assessment to inform testing decisions. Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness (e.g., influenza)."

Respectfully yours,

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