



Indiana State Department of Health

Indiana Health Alert Network Notification – April 25, 2020

COVID-19 Testing in Indiana

Private/Commercial Lab Testing Recommendation

Providers who are using private or commercial labs for COVID-19 testing should test patients when they feel it is clinically indicated. This may include testing patients who do not meet the ISDH/Lilly lab recommendations to facilitate patient diagnosis, treatment and disposition.

Testing patients with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 helps in the detection of cases and allows for appropriate recommendations to be made regarding self-isolation of infectious individuals and self-quarantine for their close contacts.

ISDH/Eli Lilly Lab Testing Recommendations

Providers who are using the ISDH/Eli Lilly lab as part of our Statewide public health COVID-19 response should test the below at-risk populations.

ISDH continues to focus on highest-risk patients to provide results within 24-48 hours of sample receipt. ISDH recommends COVID-19 testing for the following highest-risk patients:

1. **Patients who require hospitalization** due to complications of their acute respiratory illness and symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
2. **Healthcare workers and first responders** with symptoms consistent of COVID-19 who in their role have potential or unknown exposure to at risk patients.
3. **Patients and staff (who have direct contact with patients) at long-term care facilities** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.
4. **Persons experiencing homelessness** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.
5. **Patients who expire with suspected COVID-19 symptoms.**
 1. Call the ISDH 2019 Novel Coronavirus Death Reporting Line at 765-860-6053. Please include the following patient information in your report:
 - i. Full name
 - ii. Date of birth
 - iii. Date of death
 2. When filling out LimsNet, select “Yes” for the “Deceased?” question.
6. **Inmate patients and staff (with direct contact with inmates) at correctional facilities** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and otherwise no known COVID-19 contact.
7. **Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.**
8. **Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.**

According to the CDC, high-risk conditions include:

- i. People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- ii. People who have heart disease with complications
- iii. People who are immunocompromised including cancer treatment

- iv. People of any age with severe obesity (BMI >40) or certain underlying medical conditions, particularly not well controlled, such as those with diabetes, renal failure or liver disease
9. **Pregnant women** with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
10. **Provider discretion on patients for whom it is imperative to have a quick turnaround time**

Providers should work with local procedures, incident command, infection prevention and/or laboratory to order testing through ISDH and Eli Lilly in LimsNet. The following steps are typically done by lab or designated individual. Enter your specimen information in <http://limsnet.isdh.in.gov>. If you don't have a LimsNet account, signup instructions and more details are also available at that website.

These patients should be informed of the risks of developing severe illness about eight days after onset of symptoms.

- a. They need to be made aware of what symptoms to watch out for (trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face), when to seek additional care, and to call ahead so proper precautions can be taken to prevent additional spread.
- b. Individuals with symptoms consistent for COVID-19 or those who had direct contact with a COVID-19 patient should be advised to self-isolate until:
 - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared

Additional recommendations

1. Discharge patients with instructions on home isolation. Guidance here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
2. Communicate to healthcare partners that obtaining NP swabs is considered a high-risk procedure and is only recommended to be done wearing full including an N-95 or higher-level respirator (facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection, gloves and a gown. Testing does not have to occur in an AIIR and can be done in a single-patient room with the door closed.
3. Encourage telehealth and nurse lines to have patients stay home if they have mild illness.
4. Review the coroner [guidance](#) to learn how to handle COVID-19 decedents (confirmed or suspected). Coroners may ask for swabs to test deceased patients.

Reporting COVID-19 cases to ISDH

Both positive and negative test results are immediately reportable to ISDH through NBS.

Communication of results

1. Results for all COVID-19 test requests submitted through LimsNet will be immediately available in LimsNet upon release by the ISDH Laboratories.
2. Results will not be communicated using any method other than LimsNet.

Supporting Coroners

Please review the [guidance](#) sent to coroners for handling COVID-19 deaths. To ensure specimens are handled properly, hospitals are to support coroners and to provide swabs if needed and to assist your local coroner offices with shipping the specimens. Coroners are responsible for initiating the lab request and collecting the swab before arriving to the hospital.

On Thursday April 8, 2020, Indiana State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Kris Box signed an order requiring COVID-19 reporting for long-term care facilities, prisons, jails and other congregate housing. Effective April 10, 2020, these facilities are required to report the following within 24 hours:

- Any resident or offender who tests positive for COVID-19
- Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19
- Any confirmed positive COVID-19 related death OR suspected COVID-19 related death of a resident or offender
- Any confirmed positive COVID-19 related death OR suspected COVID-19 related death of an employee

Confirmed or suspected deaths should be reported regardless of where the death occurred and within 24 hours of the facilities' knowledge of the death.

ISDH has created this online form for reporting: <https://redcap.isdh.in.gov/surveys/?s=T9MNELECFT>

Any questions about the REDCap form or reporting requirements can be sent to: ISDHREDCAP@isdh.IN.gov.

Indiana Healthcare Workforce Needs:

Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare entities can notify ISDH and the Bowen Center to request immediate healthcare workforce needs in response to COVID-19.

Please complete this [form](#) to submit your health workforce needs request in response to COVID-19. Information about employment opportunities within your facility may be distributed to individuals who indicated willingness to serve and meet the specified criteria/need as outlined in your request.

Please email any questions or feedback to bowenctr@iu.edu.