



# LHA COVID-19 ALERT



## LHA COVID-19 Alert: March 26, 2020 Updates Regarding OPH Electronic State Lab Forms, Courier Service & Testing Guidance

**Electronic State Lab Forms:** Yesterday, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) issued a Louisiana Health Alert Network (LA HAN) [message](#) regarding newly-implemented electronic state lab forms. LDH has released an [online tool](#) that streamlines the requisition form for submitting samples for COVID-19 testing at the Office of Public Health (OPH) State Lab. The form will electronically capture all the required laboratory and epidemiology information with as few questions and entries as possible. LDH also disseminated an [infographic](#) on which specimens are appropriate to submit to the State Lab. After entering the information in the portal, hospitals should print the requisition and include it with the sample to submit to the State Lab. Hospitals must include the requisition form with the sample. A more sophisticated, interfaced application is in development, but this temporary solution will provide much-needed relief in managing the current three-paper form process. **For help with the portal, contact 1-888-345-3858.**

**Lab Courier Service:** The portal, upon print, will also trigger a courier pickup with an email to the courier; therefore, there is no longer a need to arrange for courier pickup. It will send new provider information to be added to the Laboratory Information Management System prior to arrival of the sample. Read additional details about the process in the [LA HAN message](#). In addition, OPH has announced the establishment of more direct courier routes to improve service. If your facility will allow, samples should be brought to the door for courier pickup. The courier will call prior to arrival to allow time for the samples to be collected and brought to the door. This will reduce exposures for all.

**Updated State Laboratory Testing Guidance:** In the [LA HAN message](#), LDH also included updated guidance for COVID-19 testing at the State Laboratory:

- Continue to report an outbreak of any infectious disease, a positive COVID-19 case, or an urgent non-COVID-19 infectious disease to OPH at 800-256-2748.
- It is still no longer necessary to get approval to send COVID-19 specimens to the State Laboratory. If you have a patient who is appropriate for testing at the State Lab given the criteria provided in the LA HAN message, strictly follow the collection, packaging and shipping instructions to send specimens to the lab. Do not call the State Lab or the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section (IDEpi) for test results. Test results will be directed to the provider who is listed on the LIMS Submitter Form as soon as the test is complete. The State Lab and IDEpi are unable to give test results over the phone.

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This and other local, state and national hospital-specific resources and guidance from trusted sources can be found on the [LHA's COVID-19 webpage](#). We will continue to monitor developments and update resources as necessary.

Note: This Alert is being distributed to **Hospital C-Suite Staff** in the LHA database.