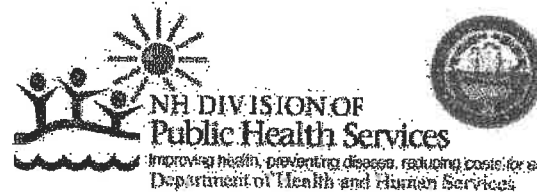


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Health.Alert@nh.gov
April 29, 2020 Time 1000 (10:00 AM EDT)
NH-HAN 20200429



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 13 ***NH DHHS Announces New Specimen Collection Stations for COVID-19 Testing*** ***and*** ***New Information on COVID-19 Serology Testing***

Key Points and Recommendations:

- To increase access to COVID-19 testing, the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has established five new drive-through locations where patients can have nasopharyngeal swabs collected for COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing.
- These new specimen collection stations are open 7-days per week from 11am – 7pm and are located in:
 - **Lancaster:** 350 Meadow St., Lancaster, NH 03743
 - **Plymouth:** 7 Armory Rd., Plymouth, NH 03264
 - **Tamworth (DMV):** 1864 White Mountain Highway, Tamworth, NH 03886
 - **Claremont (middle school):** 107 South St., Claremont, NH 03743
 - **Rochester:** 106 Brock St., Rochester, NH 03867
- You can order testing for any patient with COVID-19 symptoms (see below) at one of these stations by sending in a completed test requisition form to the NH DHHS COVID-19 Coordinating Office via fax (603-271-3001) or email (covidtesting@dhhs.nh.gov).
 - The NH DHHS COVID-19 Coordinating Office will then call the patient directly to schedule an appointment at one of these stations.
 - If a patient is unable to drive to one of the stations due to a disability or physical barrier, NH DHHS will schedule a visiting nurses association (VNA) to go to the patient's home to collect the specimen.
- Patients without a primary care provider can call 2-1-1 to be assessed for COVID-19 testing at these new stations under a standing order.
- Facilities (e.g., long term care facilities, assisted-living facilities, residential homes, etc.) with concern about active COVID-19 transmission can request testing for staff and residents by calling the NH DHHS COVID-19 Coordinating Office at 603-271-5980.
- Antibody-based tests are now available through commercial laboratories for the detection of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2. Providers should review the COVID-19 Antibody Testing Primer from the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), and information released by Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security about serology-based tests for COVID-19.
 - Do not use antibody-based tests to diagnose acute infection. It can take ~2 weeks after infection for antibodies to be detectable. If a patient is symptomatic, collect an upper respiratory tract specimen for testing by PCR.

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- Become acquainted with the test characteristics of the various antibody tests, noting the possibility of false-negative results (especially from use too early following symptoms) and false-positive results (especially from cross-reactivity to commonly circulating coronaviruses).
- A positive antibody test should not be used to make decisions about a person's potential to infect others or their immune status. For example, healthcare workers with positive serology should still use personal protective equipment in the care of suspect or confirmed COVID-19 patients and everybody, including those with a positive antibody test result, need to continue to practice social distancing. We do not know how a positive test, or specific antibody levels, correlate with a person's immunity, and we don't know how long protection may last.
- In partnership with the New Hampshire Health Care Association, we continue weekly calls every **Wednesday** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm** for LTCFs, ALFs, and other congregate settings with vulnerable patients (next call Wednesday, April 29th):
 - Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/511075725>
 - Call-in phone number: (929) 205-6099
 - Meeting ID: 511 075 725
- We continue to host weekly calls every **Thursday** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm** for healthcare providers and local partners (next call Thursday, April 30th):
 - Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/94841259025>
 - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
 - Meeting ID: 948 4125 9025
 - Password: 003270

Background:

See our NH COVID-19 website for updated counts and information:

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

Patients with COVID-19 can present with a wide range of symptoms from mild to severe illness.

Symptoms typically appear within 2-14 days after exposure and can include:

- Fever (subjective or documented fever)
- Upper and lower respiratory tract symptoms including rhinorrhea, pharyngitis, cough, chest congestion, or shortness of breath
- Flu-like symptoms including myalgia, chills, and new significant fatigue
- Loss of taste or smell

See our prior HANs related to COVID-19:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/alerts/han.htm>

Additional Information

- CDC COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - CDC Information for Healthcare Professionals:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html>
- World Health Organization COVID-19 website:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

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- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

Status: Actual
Message Type: Update
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Sensitivity: Not Sensitive
Message Identifier: NH-HAN 20200429 COVID-19, Update #13
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Distributed to: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospitals, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, EMS, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Networks, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, Zoonotic Alert Team, Health Officers, Deputy Health Officers, MRC, NH Schools, EWIDS, Dialysis & Transplant Clinics, STD Clinics, Immunization Practices, Travel Centers, Influenza Sentinels, Urgent Care Centers, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Walk-in Clinics, Poison Center, Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Health Departments, Internal Medicine, Occupational Health, Gastroenterology, Schools and Daycare Providers, Regional Public Health Networks, Environmental Services, Family Planning Programs, Department of Corrections, Home Care Providers, Local and State Partners, Area Agencies
From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Originating: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health
Agency: Services

Attachments: none

