



This is an official Oklahoma Health Alert

Network Health Advisory

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Acute Disease Service (ADS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert

Provides vital, time-sensitive information for a specific incident or situation; warrants immediate action or attention by health officials, laboratorians, clinicians, and members of the public and conveys the highest level of importance.

Health Advisory

Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; contains recommendations or actionable items to be performed by public health officials, laboratorians, and/or clinicians; may not require immediate action.

Health Update

Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate attention.

Health Info/Event

Provides general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

March 18, 2020

OKHAN_306-2020_03-18 ADV-N

Reference: N/A

Update to Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Laboratory Testing for COVID-19

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: Due to a national shortage of test reagents and kits, specimens will only be approved for testing if:

the patient has fever¹ and symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)

AND EITHER

Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in order to inform decisions related to infection control.

OR

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).

OR

Any persons including healthcare personnel², who within 14 days of symptom onset had close contact³ with a suspect or laboratory-confirmed⁴ COVID-19 patient, or who have a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of their symptom onset.

All specimens submitted to the OSDH Public Health Laboratory for testing must be accompanied by the official *Human Infection with 2019 Novel Coronavirus Person Under Investigation (PUI) and Case Report Form* to ensure the testing criteria above are met. Specimens will be rejected if the PUI form is not submitted or the testing criteria are not met.

Clinicians are also encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness (e.g., influenza) prior to testing for COVID-19.

For patients who do not meet the priorities listed, clinicians should submit specimens to a commercial laboratory that provides SARS-CoV-2. Please, contact these commercial laboratories to find out the correct process for submission of specimens.

Guidance for testing at the PHL will be updated if laboratory supplies improve.

Summary Points

- Update to Criteria to Guide Evaluation and Laboratory Testing for COVID-19
- Scripted Guidance for Patient Evaluation
- CDC PUI and Case Report Form

Message #: OK-HAN_306 / Reference: N/A

Oklahoma State Department of Health / Acute Disease Service / 1000 NE 10th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73117
405-271-4060 (ph) / 405-271-6680 (fax) <http://ads.health.ok.gov>



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Mildly ill patients should be encouraged to stay home and contact their healthcare provider by phone for guidance about clinical management. Patients who have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, should seek care immediately. Older patients and individuals who have underlying medical conditions or are immunocompromised should contact their physician early in the course of even mild illness. Provide patient with routine home care instructions for mild viral respiratory illness. Healthcare workers are encouraged to follow recommended infection control procedures.

It is not recommended to send patients to an ER for the sole purpose of specimen collection. This is an unnecessary risk of exposure to other patients and staff.

If healthcare provider staff do not currently receive the Oklahoma Health Alert Network (OK-HAN) notifications, please advise personnel to contact OKHAN@health.ok.gov for access or by calling the ADS and asking for the OK-HAN Coordinator.

References

- Oklahoma Acute Disease COVID-19 web page: <https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>.

This message has been distributed to Primary Care and Infectious Disease Physicians, Infection Preventionists, Laboratorians, Urgent Care Centers, Emergency Departments, and State and Local Health Officials

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