

WHAT HAS OCCURRED

Our region is seeing a spike in COVID PCR testing consistent with what is occurring nationwide. The effect is significant enough that the California Department of Public Health released the following information for providers to follow when ordering COVID-19 tests:

As testing capacity continues to increase across the state, the California Department of Public Health is working to expand access to COVID-19 testing. Testing should be used for medical evaluation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19 as well as for efforts by public health agencies and essential employers to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. Individuals prioritized for testing include:

- *Hospitalized patients*
- *Symptomatic and asymptomatic healthcare workers, first responders, and other social service employees*
- *Symptomatic individuals age 65 and older or symptomatic individuals of any age with chronic medical conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19 illness*
- *Individuals who are tested as part of disease control efforts in high-risk settings*
- *Asymptomatic residents and employees of congregate living facilities when needed to prevent disease transmission*
- *Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals in essential occupations such as grocery store and food supply workers, utility workers and public employees*
- *Other individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19*

REFERRER LAB TURNAROUND TIME

We are now experiencing a 4-6 day turnaround time from our referral laboratories (an increase from 2-4 days) In response to these increased TATs, please consider the following:

- Submit specimens for pre-procedure screening 6 to 7 days in advance to ensure results before the scheduled procedure.
- Results may not be available for several days so advise patients accordingly.

COLLECTION KIT AVAILABILITY

COVID-19 collection kit supply requests are increasing along with the test requests. Please note the following:

- Supply Requests: PDL is verifying utilization before issuing kits and may include a call from our sales team to verify the request.
- Collection Kit Options: You may be provided alternative collection kits, i.e. viral transport media or saline kits. Any variance from current collection requirements will be documented clearly on a notification and included in your supply delivery.

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT (805) 879-8100