

WHAT HAS OCCURRED

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has provided further clarification on prioritizing COVID-19 testing. We are providing the information below as a quick reference. CDPH is indicating that this guidance should be used for prioritization of patient populations as well as for the purposes of guiding laboratories in managing specimen processing.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC HEALTH TESTING PRIORITIES as of JULY 14, 2020

Full document is available at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx>

Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitalized individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. Investigation and management of outbreaks, under direction of state and local public health. Close contacts of confirmed cases.
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. Individuals who are asymptomatic, who fall into one of the following categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Live in higher risk congregate care facilities Work in the health care sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. Work in a congregate care facility, including shelters for people experience homelessness and residential care facilities for the elderly. Provide care to an elderly person or a person with a disability in the home. Work in the emergency services sector who have frequent interactions with the public or with people who may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to SARS-CoV-2. Work in a correctional facility. Patients requiring pre-operative/pre-hospital admission screening. Patients being discharged from hospitals to lower levels of care.
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals who work in the retail or manufacturing sectors, agricultural or food manufacturing sector, who have frequent interactions with the public or who works in an environment where it is not practical to maintain at least six feet of space from other workers on a consistent basis. Individuals who work in the food services sector, public transportation sector, and education sector who have frequent interactions with the public.
Tier 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other individuals not specified above including: those who are asymptomatic but believe they have a risk for being actively infected as well as routine testing by employers.

REFERRER LAB TURNAROUND TIME

We are 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 of scheduled procedure.
- Results may not be available for several days so advise patients accordingly.

COLLECTION KIT AVAILABILITY

Due to the high demand, COVID-19 collection kit requests are being adjusted to manage our current inventory as effectively as possible. Replenishment of supplies continues to be a challenge industry wide.

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