Criteria for COVID-19 testing at OSPHL

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) provides testing for COVID-19 to support public health priorities established by the Oregon Health Authority. **Specimens submitted must meet the criteria outlined below.** OSPHL may consult with local or state public health officials to verify acceptance.

For testing not meeting these criteria, clinicians can order COVID-19 testing at their discretion through other laboratories offering COVID-19 testing. Public Health approval is not needed for testing through other laboratories. Additional guidance for providers is outlined in separate documents, available at [healthoregon.org/coronavirushcp](http://healthoregon.org/coronavirushcp).

Testing at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

1. OSPHL will test people who reside in or provide direct care or service in congregate settings for initial outbreak investigation and response. Serial testing for these settings should be conducted at alternate laboratories.

Examples of these settings include:

a. Residents, staff, children, or other people in a care facility or group living setting (e.g., healthcare facility, residential care facility, school, migrant or seasonal farm worker camp, childcare, corrections, or shelters for houseless).

b. Workers who provide direct care or service in congregate facilities or who provide in-home services (e.g., hospice care workers, physical or occupational therapists, in-home personal care workers, etc.).

2. The following groups are also prioritized for testing at OSPHL:

a. Patients seen at tribal health centers, NARA Indian Health Clinic, and Chemawa Indian Health Center who have acute onset of COVID-19 symptoms may be tested for COVID-19 at OSPHL.

b. People who identify as Black, African American, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian American or Pacific Islander attending community specimen collection events.

   c. Postmortem specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 cases.
3. Approvals
   a. Oregon law requires reporting of any cluster of illness to the Local Public Health Authority. If submitting specimens for outbreak investigation or response, please have your outbreak number available when contacting OSPHL. Specimens submitted must meet the criteria outlined below. OSPHL may consult with local or state public health officials to verify acceptance.
   b. Submission of postmortem swabs does not require approval. To submit autopsy tissues for testing at CDC, contact the State Epidemiologist On Call for approval at 971-673-1111.

4. Collecting specimens
   a. Specimens should be collected under appropriate infection prevention precautions. For information on recommended infection prevention measures for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, see OHA’s Provisional Guidance: Clinical Care and Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19.
   b. Follow all instructions for specimen collection, handling, and storage available at www.healthoregon.org/labtests.

OSPHL offers two different tests:
   − Hologic Aptima SARS-CoV-2 assay – Only tests for COVID-19
   − CDC Influenza/SARS-CoV-2 assay – Tests for Influenza A, Influenza B, and COVID-19

5. Sending specimens and forms
   a. Submit each specimen with a COVID-19 Test Request Form, available at www.bitly.com/phl-forms. Incorrectly completed or incomplete test request forms will delay testing.
   b. Send specimens so that they will be received at OSPHL during expanded business hours for COVID-19 services:
      − Monday–Friday, between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.
      − Saturday and Sunday, between 10:00 AM and 12:00 noon.

6. Resources & Questions
   b. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) COVID Response and Recovery Unit (CRRU): Testing Branch – ORESF8.AOCTestingBranch@dhsoha.state.or.us
   c. Local Public Health Authority Contact Information: www.healthoregon.org/lhddirectory
   d. OHA Epidemiologist On Call: 971-673-1111