DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing Algorithm - DSHS Austin Public Health Laboratory

Initial Screening

HCP determines person meets CDC PUI testing criteria.¹

HCP contacts LHD² or PHR³ to request testing.

Yes

HCP has the option to test in commercial or hospital lab.

No

HCP sends notification to LHD or PHR of all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Public Health Testing and Surveillance

PHR³ confirms if person meets CDC PUI testing criteria and assigns PUI ID⁴, and gives approval to LHD or HCP.

Yes

PHR fills out DSHS Lab COVID-19 Specimen Submission Template and emails to txlabcovid19 inbox with CC to WIRID inbox.

All Results

HCP collects appropriate specimens for COVID-19 testing, fills out G-2V submission form and ships to DSHS Austin PHL.

DSHS Austin PHL tests specimen and emails results to WIRID inbox.

DSHS EAUDETU emails results to PHR.

LHD or PHR completes case report form and enters into NEDSS and sends to DSHS EAUDETU.

No

HCP sends notification to LHD or PHR of all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Additional Information

- txlabcovid19 inbox: txlabcovid19@dshs.texas.gov
- WIRID inbox: wirid@dshs.texas.gov

Acronyms: CDC - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; DSHS - Texas Department of State Health Services; EAUDETU - Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Unit; HCP - Healthcare Provider; LHD - Local Health Department; LRN - Laboratory Response Network; NEDSS - National Electronic Disease Surveillance System; PHL - Public Health Laboratory; PHR - Public Health Region; PUI - Person Under Investigation

2 Find your Local Health Department and Public Health Region: [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/).

3 PHR approval is needed before specimens are shipped to the DSHS Austin PHL. Specimens submitted to the DSHS Austin PHL from another LRN jurisdiction must be approved by PHR before the specimens are shipped.

4 PUI ID assignment is recommended, but not required. If a PHR does not assign a unique identifier, the PHR must decide how the LHD, healthcare provider, or healthcare facility should notate the approval of COVID-19 specimen submission to the DSHS Austin PHL on the G-2V form. The PHR must also notate on the DSHS Austin PHL Specimen Submission Template if the PHR has approved the specimen for testing and indicate the reason for approval. If approval is not indicated on the G-2V form and the DSHS Austin PHL COVID-19 Specimen Submission Template, then testing for SARS-CoV-2 will be delayed or potentially rejected.