DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing Algorithm

Initial Screening

HCP determines person meets DSHS PUI testing criteria.¹

Yes → HCP contacts LHD or PHR.²

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

No → HCP has the option to test in commercial or hospital lab.

Public Health Testing and Surveillance

LHD or PHR determines if person meets COVID-19 PUI criteria, in consultation with DSHS EAIIDU if needed.

Yes → PHR provides Regional COVID-19 PUI ID Number to submitter or LHD.³

Yes → HCP collects appropriate specimens for COVID-19 testing and fills out submission form including PUI ID.

Yes → LRN Lab tests specimen.⁶

LRN Lab ships test results to LHD and PHR.

Negative or Invalid

LRN Lab sends test result to LHD and PHR.

Positive or Inconclusive

LRN Lab ships test results to CDC for confirmatory COVID-19 testing.

CDC sends test result notification to DSHS Lab in Austin.

DSHS Lab notifies DSHS EAIIDU of test results. DSHS EAIIDU notifies PHR and LHD.

LHD or PHR notifies submitter of confirmatory test results.

Additional Information

- CDC COVID-19 Evaluating & Reporting PUI website:
- CDC Situation Summary

Acronyms: CDC - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; DSHS - Texas Department of State Health Services; HCP - Healthcare Provider; LHD - Local Health Department; LRN - Laboratory Response Network; PHR - Public Health Region; PUI - Person Under Investigation

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

3 Submitter may include health care facilities and providers, among others.

4 PHR/LHD approval is needed before specimens are shipped to the appropriate Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Lab.

5 Specimens submitted to the DSHS State Lab in Austin from another LRN jurisdiction must be approved by DSHS EAIDU before the specimens are shipped to the DSHS Lab in Austin. Tracking number shall be provided by email or phone to DSHS EAIDU.

6 Find your LRN Lab at https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/eprLRNcontact.shtm.