
**Initial Screening**

- HCP determines person meets CDC PUI testing criteria.¹
  - Yes: HCP contacts LHD or PHR.²
  - No: HCP has the option to test in commercial or hospital lab.

- HCP contacts LHD or PHR.²
  - Yes: LHD or PHR determines if person meets COVID-19 PUI criteria, in consultation with DSHS EAIDU, if needed.³,⁴
    - Yes: PHR assigns PUI ID, if required.⁵
    - No: LHD notifies PHR, who notifies LRN Lab a specimen⁶ will be sent.
    - HCP collects appropriate specimens for COVID-19 testing and fills out submission form. HCP includes PUI ID,⁵ if required.
  - No: HCP sends notification to LHD or PHR of all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

**Public Health Testing and Surveillance**

- LHD or PHR ships specimen⁶ to an LRN Lab.⁴,⁶
  - LRN Lab tests specimen.⁶
  - LHD or PHR notifies submitter of positive test results.
  - LRN Lab sends test results to LHD and PHR.

- HCP ships specimen⁶ to LRN Lab.⁴,⁶
  - LRN Lab tests specimen.⁶
  - LHD or PHR notifies submitter of positive test results.

**Positive or Inconclusive**

- LRN Lab sends test results to LHD and PHR. LHD or PHR notifies submitter of positive test results.

**Negative or Invalid**

- LRN Lab sends test result to LHD and PHR.

**Additional Information**


**Acronyms:**

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


2 Find your Local Health Department and Public Health Region: https://www.dhs.state.tx.us/lab/eprLRNcontact.shtm.

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

4 Specimens submitted to the DSHS State Lab in Austin from another LRN jurisdiction must be approved by the PHR. Please see the DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing Algorithm for the DSHS State Lab in Austin for full approval process.

5 PUI ID is assigned by the PHR. LHDs need to communicate with their PHR to get a PUI ID as some LRN Labs require a PUI ID.

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

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