



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

March 10, 2020

COVID-19 Collection & Shipping Update

Dear Public Health Laboratory Partner:

As of March 9th, we can accept Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oral-pharyngeal (OP) swabs placed in the same viral transport media tube for testing.

- While it is acceptable to submit as separate specimens, the preference would be for both swabs to be placed in the same viral transport media tube.

It is acceptable to send residual specimens from viral respiratory panel testing for COVID-19 testing, if it is in viral transport media.

- We are unable to accept e-Swabs, Aimes Swabs, Dry Swabs, or Anaerobic/Bacterial Swabs.

If a specimen cannot be sent to MDHHS within 72 hours of collection, please freeze the specimens at -70°C and ship. Frozen specimens can be shipped on cold packs.

Please ensure submitter fields on the MDHHS test requisition form are complete (DCH-0583)

- Click on the hyperlink to access the form: [State of Michigan-Laboratory Test Requisition](#)
- Without appropriate submitter information it is difficult to determine where to send results, which could delay testing and reporting of results.

Label tubes and test requisition with: Patient Name, Date of Birth, and Specimen Source

- Verify that the information on the tube and test requisition match.

For weekend testing, sites may deliver specimens via a courier service or commercial carrier.

- Please note that commercial carriers (i.e. FedEx or UPS) do not deliver or pick-up on Sundays.
- Contact the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) with delivery information as soon as possible, so we may ensure the guard has deliveries on the approval list for entry.
- Contact BOL at:
 - Business Hours (517) 335-8063 or (517) 335-8067
 - After hours: (517) 335-9030 after hours

Work is underway to develop panels to assist clinical labs that wish to bring testing online over the course of the upcoming weeks. For sites that are considering COVID-19 testing and need to make decisions at their facilities for their own billing purposes, please find information on the CMS website under the COVID FAQs.

- Note: MDHHS BOL does NOT charge any fees for COVID-19 testing.

When COVID-19 testing is requested at MDHHS or at a commercial laboratory, please inform your local health department, so they may appropriately track patients and ensure necessary epidemiological follow-up is performed.

- Questions related to acceptable specimens or shipment options to a commercial laboratory should be directed to those laboratories.