



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

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The Division of Laboratory Services (DLS) within the Kentucky Department for Public Health would like to announce that in-house testing of respiratory specimens for detection of 2019-Novel Coronavirus is being initiated. The DLS will use the CDC Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel provided under a Food and Drug Administration's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Results are for presumptive identification of 2019-Novel Coronavirus RNA. All specimens with positive or inconclusive results will be reflexed to the CDC for confirmatory testing. This assay is intended for use with both upper and lower respiratory specimens, including nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirates, and nasopharyngeal washes or aspirates, from individuals who meet the CDC criteria for testing.

All requests for laboratory testing must be approved by the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) before collecting the specimens. Healthcare providers should notify KDPH at 502-564-3261 during regular business hours or 888-973-7678 after hours and on weekends to determine if individuals meet the Patient Under Investigation (PUI) criteria and to obtain approval for testing.

The KY DLS requests approved respiratory specimens submitted for testing have orders placed in the lab Outreach system if at all possible. The test code is "NCOV." If Outreach access is unavailable, please complete the Virology paper requisition (Lab Form 275) available on the DLS website <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dls/Pages/default.aspx>. Specimens should be collected in sterile, leak-proof containers, with swabs suspended in viral transport media, and stored at 2-8°C until shipment. Specimens should be shipped overnight on ice packs to DLS at the following address: KY Division of Laboratory Services, Attn: Virology, 100 Sower Blvd, Suite 204, Frankfort, KY 40601. Most updated specimen collection and shipping guidance is available on the DLS website and will be updated if anything changes. For additional questions regarding DLS laboratory testing and submission of specimens please contact Teresa Fields or Rachel Zinner at 502-564-4446.

We greatly appreciate your continued support and assistance with the 2019-Novel Coronavirus outbreak response throughout Kentucky.

Thank you.

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