

**COVID-19 Texas Laboratory Testing Requirements
(Information collected by Texas Medical Association as of 3/19/2020)**

Laboratory	Testing Requirements	Ordering	Accepted Specimens	Containers	Collection	Storage	Shipment Details	Expected Turnaround Time	Results	CPT/ HCPCS codes	Notes
DSHS	<p>Patient must meet DSHS criteria for testing, and all specimens for testing require preapproval.</p> <p>Complete CDC PUI and Case Report Form.</p>	Contact local health department (LHD).	NP swab	Viral transport media	<p>Collect as soon as possible.</p> <p>Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts.</p> <p>Do not use calcium alginate swab or swabs with wooden shafts.</p>	<p>Transport as soon as possible.</p> <p>Refrigerate all specimens at 2°-8°C promptly and ship on ice.</p> <p>If specimens will not arrive within 72 hours, store frozen at -70°C.</p>	<p>Specimens can be shipped overnight M-Th. Weekend delivery requires preapproval from LHD.</p> <p>Label with at least two patient identifiers and specimen type.</p> <p>Complete a DSHS G-2V Virology Specimen Submission Form (separate form required per specimen).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A submitter ID is required; request it here; • List PUI ID number on form; 	Unknown	<p>The regional or LHD will notify health care facilities of results.</p> <p>Laboratory results will be mailed to submitter unless requested by fax.</p>	Unknown	

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							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Other Virology and write "COVID-19"; • Mark IDEAS as payer source; • Place G-2V form on outside of Styrofoam container but inside cardboard shipper. <p>Follow International Air Transportation Regulations for Shipping of Category "B" Biological Substances.</p> <p>Ship to TX DSHS Laboratory Services, ATTN: Walter Douglass 1100 W. 49th St., Austin TX, 78756 Ph: (512) 776-7569</p>				

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Dallas	<p>Must follow DSHS criteria.</p> <p>Must obtain approval from Dallas County HHS Epi Division, (214) 819-2004 or (877) 605-2660 after hours.</p> <p>For patients outside Dallas county, prior approval must be obtained from appropriate county health department.</p> <p>Request form must be submitted with specimen and faxed to (214) 819-1933.</p>	n/a	NP swab	Sterile 2-3mL viral transport media	<p>Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts.</p> <p>Do not use calcium alginate swab or swabs with wooden shafts.</p>	Refrigerate at 2°-8°C and ship within 72 hours.	<p>Ship refrigerated on ice packs.</p> <p>Label specimen with patient's full name, medical record number (MRN), date of birth (DOB), specimen type, and date of collection.</p> <p>Specimen should be double- bagged in a biohazard bag with the request form in the outer pouch of biohazard bag.</p> <p>Ship by overnight courier to arrive during business hours (M-F, 8 am -4:30 pm).</p>	Unknown	Results transmitted by fax to the submitter	n/a	
<p>Other local labs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Houston Tarrant 	Contact laboratory (no information is posted online).	Contact local health department	If following CDC guidance: NP swab	Sterile 2-3mL viral transport media	Use only synthetic fiber swabs	Refrigerate at 2°-8°C and ship	Follow local laboratory guidance.	Unknown	Unknown	n/a	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Antonio • East Texas (Tyler) • South Texas • El Paso • Lubbock • Corpus Christi 					<p>with plastic shafts.</p> <p>Do not use calcium alginate swab or swabs with wooden shafts.</p>	within 72 hours.					
LabCorp	Follows CDC criteria for testing. Detailed Instructions	Online via login Test name: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) NAA Test number: 139900	One of the following between the volume range of 1mL and 0.2mL: oropharyngeal (OP) swabs; nasopharyngeal (NP) swab; OP or NP washes/aspirates; bronchial washings or bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL).	Swabs must be submitted in viral transport medium (NP samples should be sent separately from OP samples if sending both). Sterile cups for OP/NP washes/aspirates, bronchial washings, or BAL specimens. Any swab of appropriate size with a synthetic tip (except for calcium alginate tips, swabs with preservatives, and swabs with woods shafts).	Illustrated instructions *Do NOT use swabs that come with viral medium kit for NP swabs	Frozen at -20°C, or refrigerated if received for testing within 72 hours of collection.	Ship overnight; label sample with test code 139900-COVID-19 and include patient's address and phone number. Submit separate specimens for each test.	3-4 days	Reported electronically. Positive results are reported to ordering physician by telephone and to public health authorities as required.	AMA 87635	

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				Viral transport media acceptable for collection of influenza specimens in 1mL or 3mL volumes.							
Quest Diagnostics	Follows CDC criteria for testing.	Online via login Test name: SARS-CoV-2 RNA, Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR Test number: 39433	Preferred – 1 NP or OP swab (0.35 mL) Alternative – 0.85 mL bronchial lavage/wash, NP aspirate wash, or sputum/tracheal aspirate	Swabs submitted in M4, VCM, or UTM media – no calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts. Alternative specimens can be sent in plastic, sterile, leak-proof container.	Use sterile Dacron or Rayon swabs.	Preferred shipped frozen, or refrigerated at 2°-8°C if shipped within 72 hours.	Ship overnight; label samples with two patient identifiers.	3-4 days	Physicians will receive a phone call for positive or inconclusive test results.	87635 HCPCS: U0002	
Clinical Pathology Laboratories	Follows CDC criteria; must be accompanied with official Human Infection With 2019 Novel Coronavirus Person Under Investigation (PUI) and Case Report Form . High risk are those who are symptomatic AND have traveled to a COVID-19 endemic area, been in close contact with a COVID-19 patients, or considered high risk.	Online via Login Test Name: SARS-COV-2 BY RT-PCR Test Code: 7581 High Test Name: SARS-COV-2 BY RT-PCR-HIGH RISK Test Code: 7305	Preferred – NP and OP swab Accepted – NP or OP swab, sputum (uninduced), bronchoalveolar lavage, or tracheal aspirate (2-3mL)	Swabs submitted in viral or universal transport media (VTM or UTM). Sputum, lavage and aspirate submitted via sterile cup.	Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. If submitting both NP and OP swabs, combine in a single tube.	Frozen at -20°C or below; refrigerated at 2°-8°C if received within 72 hours.	Ship overnight; identify source (NP, OP, etc.) and label with two patient identifiers on media.	1-3 days	Not specified	U0001	

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					Do not use calcium alginate swabs, swabs with wooden shafts, or M4RT media.						
ARUP Laboratories	Follows CDC criteria; encourages abiding by state and local health department requirements as well. Submit with form .	Online via login Test name: 2019 Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 by PCR Test code: 3002638	NP swab (will also accept OP swabs if placed in same tube).	Place swab in viral transport media. Swabs cannot be wooden-handle, calcium-alginate, or cotton-tipped.	Use Dacron, polyester-tipped, or other flocculated swabs.	Send frozen; refrigerated if within 4 days.	Ship overnight, one tube per patient.	3-4 days	Unsure	U0002	As of 3/17/20, no longer accepting orders for tests outside of Utah
Excelsior Diagnostics	Set up account (for new providers) Submit Requisition Form	Online via account	Nasal swab or NP	Place swab in sterile 1-3mL viral transport media	Sterile Dacron/ Nylon Swab	Ship as soon as possible Store at 2°-8°C and send within three days	Label with two patient identifiers, fill out requisition form and submit with specimen on an ice pack in accordance with USDOT regulations for shipping biological substances	1-2 days	Unsure	Unknown	Not currently allowing new providers to register
Viracor Eurofins	Set up an account	Online via account	NP Swab preferred	Do not use calcium alginate	Place swabs in sterile buffered		Ship overnight refrigerated (within 72	Same day, Monday	Unsure	U0002	Only authorized for use

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		Test Name: Coronavirus (COVID-19) SARS-CoV-2 Test Code: 8398	BAL/nasal swab or wash/NP wash/OP swab	or wood shafted swabs Use 1-3mL viral transport media	saline or transport media Collect washes in sterile tube		hours) or frozen Monday through Friday If shipped Friday, label for Saturday delivery Label with patient's name and collection date and submit with requisition form	through Saturday			during emergency declaration allowing use if in vitro diagnostic tests