



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

Mailing Address: 223 East 4th Street, Suite #14 • Port Angeles, WA 98362-3000
Physical Address: 111 East 3rd Street, Suite #1A • Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-417-2274 • FAX: 360-452-4492

Provider Alert:

COVID-19 Response: Testing Update March 25, 2020

While COVID-19 testing resources remain scarce locally and nationally, we have received a new shipment of COVID-19 testing supplies which will allow us to expand testing somewhat. We do not yet have sufficient supplies to test as widely as we would like but we can expand testing to the following groups.

We are recommending testing for the following people with symptoms concerning for COVID-19:

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare workers
- First Responders (firefighters, EMS, police)
- Residents or workers in long term care facilities
- Inmates in correctional facilities and staff
- Patients ill enough to require clinical evaluation and who are at high risk of complications due to comorbidities (COPD, CHF, pregnancy, immunosuppression, etc.)
- Contacts of known cases as requested by the department of public health
- Post-mortem evaluation of patients whose deaths raised concerns for COVID-19

We do not have the capacity to test all patients over 60 with concerns for COVID-19 and are not recommending generalized testing of this group.

If COVID-19 is being considered, whether testing is performed or not, **all patients should be instructed to isolate at home until 7 days after symptom onset or 72 hours after recovery**, whichever is longer. We recommend giving all such patients the following handout developed by the Washington Department of Health which gives guidance on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/COVIDcasepositive.pdf>

Department of Health approval is not required for testing. Tests are now returning in 2-3 days. **It is the responsibility of the provider ordering the test to inform the patient of their results.** Positive test results should be called to the Department of Public Health.

In order to save supplies and as flu season is coming to an end, we no longer recommend outpatient flu testing. Flu testing should be reserved for hospitalized patients. Outpatient clinicians should use their judgement as to which patients need influenza treatment.

How to Test:

- Nasopharyngeal swab – flu swab or any non-wood swab in viral transport media
- PPE:
 - Patient: surgical mask – covering the mouth during the procedure, nose and mouth thereafter
 - Provider: surgical mask, eye protection (face shield is ideal) and gown if available
- Any room can be used and that room can be used immediately following, as long as it is thoroughly wiped down between patients. A negative pressure room is no longer required.
- Swabs should be refrigerated and sent to the lab on ice the same day they are collected
- **DO NOT** send a patient to the hospital for testing. Only patients requiring hospital level care should be sent to the hospital.

This is a rapidly evolving outbreak. We anticipate the information in this provider alert will change in the coming days and weeks. For the most up-to-date information on Clallam County operations, we recommend sending a representative or calling in our EOC briefings MWF at 10am.

Thank you for your work caring for the people of Clallam County. We know this is a difficult time and we are going to do everything we can to support you and keep you as safe as we can.

Resources for local COVID-19 information (including testing and PPE Guidance):

<http://www.clallam.net/Coronavirus/>

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus>

National and international COVID-19 Information:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>