Provider Alert:
COVID-19 Response: Testing Update
April 20, 2020

While COVID-19 testing resources remain scarce locally and nationally, we have been able to procure enough test kits to further expand testing.

We recommend testing in all patients belonging to the following groups who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, cold or flu-like symptoms):

- Any patients requiring medical evaluation
- Those living in congregate settings (long term care facilities, shelters, jails)
- **All essential workers (anyone working outside the home right now)**
- 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 recommend testing asymptomatic people outside of an outbreak investigation as instructed by the department of public health.

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 and 72 hours after recovery. Additionally, **all household contacts of those being tested should be instructed to quarantine at home** until testing results return.

We recommend distributing the following handouts to these patients and their household contacts:
- [Patient Handout](#)
- [Household Contacts Handout](#)

Department of Health approval is not required for testing. Tests are now returning in 1-2 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 Clallam County Department of Public Health.

**How to Test:**

- Nasopharyngeal, oropharyngeal or nasal swab in viral transport media
- **PPE:**
  - Patient: surgical mask
  - Provider: surgical mask, eye protection (face shield is ideal) and gown if available
  - Continuous PPE use (except gloves) is an acceptable PPE conservation strategy
- Swabs should be refrigerated and sent to the lab on ice the same day they are collected
• Drive through collection is ideal. Otherwise, designated respiratory areas of clinics should be used. These areas can be used immediately following testing as long as the area is thoroughly cleaned between patients
• **DO NOT** send a patient to the hospital for testing. Only patients requiring hospital level care should be sent to the hospital.

Information about COVID-19 changes frequently. 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 calling in to 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