



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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CDC Updates Testing Criteria for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On February 27, 2020, the CDC updated criteria for testing patients under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. CDPH expects to issue a CAHAN Notice to health care facilities in the coming days that will detail the updated CDC testing criteria. In the meantime, please see the updated CDC criteria below (accessed on 2/27/20, 2:00 PM PST <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>)

Clinical Features	AND	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from affected geographic areas* within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza) ⁶	AND	No source of exposure has been identified
<p>*Affected Geographic Areas with Widespread or Sustained Community Transmission Last updated February 26, 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China • Iran • Italy • Japan • South Korea 		

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The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. In consultation with SLO Public Health, patients should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for testing. Testing may be considered for deceased persons who would otherwise meet the PUI criteria.

In all cases, providers must contact SLO Public Health to report suspect cases and to coordinate specimen testing. **Call 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) or 805-781-4553 (weekends and after hours).**

CDPH laboratory is now available for bridge testing with confirmatory testing still performed by the CDC laboratory. CDPH reports initial testing results at their lab may be available as soon as 48 hours.

SLO Public Health Laboratory continues efforts to obtain testing materials to offer testing locally. Consider use of the SLO Public Health Laboratory respiratory pathogen panel and/or pneumonia panel for patients presenting with respiratory illness as part of the clinical workup of patients for whom a diagnosis of COVID-19 is being considered.

More information available at <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/covid19> and at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>