



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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Contact: Rick Rosen, MD, MPH
Deputy Health Officer
Phone: (805)781-5500, Email: frosen@co.slo.ca.us

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory is in the process of validating its test kit for COVID-19 and will begin testing by the end of the week. In the meantime, testing for COVID-19 is available through the California Department of Public Health. The County's capacity for testing will be limited, so we will continue to take direction from the CDC with respect to screening appropriate candidates for COVID-19 testing.

Treatment and Referral

At this time, the majority of COVID-19 cases are mild in nature, and do not require hospitalization. Please do not refer patients to the Emergency Room for testing and treatment unless you believe they need to be admitted due to severity of illness. Currently, treatment for mild to moderate cases of COVID-19 is supportive only and can be achieved at home. For the majority of patients, we recommend they isolate themselves at home. Guidance on supportive treatment for a viral, flu-like illness is appropriate.

Whom to Test

We plan to test for COVID-19 in the following situations:

- Individuals who are symptomatic AND have a history of contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset
- Individuals who are symptomatic AND have a history of travel to China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, or Seattle within 14 days of symptom onset

If testing for COVID-19 is negative, we will reflex to a Respiratory Pathogen Panel.

In the case of COVID-19, symptoms consist of

- Temperature \geq 100.4 F AND
- Cough OR Shortness of Breath OR Fatigue

How to Test

To submit specimens for the above mentioned tests, please obtain BOTH a nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab and send in viral transport media to the County of San Luis

County of San Luis Obispo Health Agency

2191 Johnson Avenue | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-5500 | (F) 805-781-5543

www.slopublichealth.org

Obispo Public Health Laboratory. Specimens should be maintained between 2°- 8° Celsius (35.6° - 77° F) for storage and transport.

Sputum specimens are also acceptable, but only in cases where the individual has a productive cough. We do NOT recommend induced sputum specimens.

To order testing for COVID-19, the appropriate order is **COV2 (Test # 6850)**.

To order testing for Respiratory Pathogen Panel, the appropriate order is **RP (Test # 6310)**.

Please contact the County of San Luis Public Health Department at 805-781-5500 if you are treating an individual who is a candidate for COVID-19 testing or in situations where you have a high degree of suspicion (e.g., ill contacts of recent travelers to the above countries).

This guidance is applicable in the near term and is expected to be modified as conditions change. Currently, testing for COVID-19 must be approved by the local health department. Private and university hospital laboratories are expected to bring COVID-19 testing on-line imminently. Stay tuned.

Please share this notice with all applicable staff. Previous provider advisories from Public Health are available here : <https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Health-Agency/Public-Health/Forms-Documents/For-Healthcare-Providers/Provider-Notices.aspx>