



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*

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## PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

**Date:** February 4, 2020  
**Contact:** Christine Gaiger, SPHN  
805-781-5500, [cgaiger@co.slo.ca.us](mailto:cgaiger@co.slo.ca.us)

### Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Testing Recommendations

Currently, the CDC is the only agency able to test for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in the U.S. The California Department of Public Health is validating their own Real-Time RT-PCR test for 2019-nCoV, and will shortly be able to test specimens. Only specimens that meet the CDC criteria for 2019-nCoV testing (available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>) will be collected and sent for testing.

- The current test will not be available in U.S. hospitals or primary care settings.
- The test is intended for use with upper and lower respiratory specimens collected from individuals **who meet CDC criteria for 2019-nCoV testing**.
- Please see attached flow chart for evaluating and caring for patients suspected of 2019-nCoV infection.

The following clinical features and epidemiologic risk should be present for specimens to be tested:

- Fever **OR** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) **AND** any person, including health care workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
- Fever **AND** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) **AND** a history of travel from **Hubei Province**, China within 14 days of symptom onset.
- Fever **AND** signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization **AND** a history of travel from mainland China within 14 days of symptom onset.

If a provider has concerns about additional exposures and wishes to test for 2019-nCoV, they must first contact the County Public Health Department and speak to a Public Health Nurse to

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#### Public Health Department

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[www.slopublichealth.org](http://www.slopublichealth.org)

review the case. **In all cases, the County Public Health Department must be contacted prior to sending specimens for testing and to report suspect cases.**

- 805-781-5500 (M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.)
- 805-781-4553 (weekends and after hours)

More information for health care providers is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>.