



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: March 17, 2020

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Limiting Testing for COVID-19 Through the Public Health Laboratory

Effective today, March 17, 2020, we must limit COVID-19 testing to close or household contacts of confirmed cases of COVID-19 as well as hospital inpatients who meet clinical criteria for testing. We are taking this step because we are rapidly depleting our testing supplies.

In addition, the Public Health Department has confirmed that the following commercial labs are accepting swab specimens for COVID-19 testing as long as the specimens are accompanied by documentation of health insurance or other proof of payment: WestPac Labs, Quest Diagnostics, and LabCorp.

As mentioned in prior communication, clinical criteria for inpatient COVID-19 testing include:

- Patients with fever ($T \geq 100.4$ F) and symptoms (cough and/or shortness of breath and/or fatigue)
- History of sick contact consistent with COVID-19 signs and symptoms
- Incubation period consistent with COVID-19 (typically 5-7 days)
- Hospitalized patients in whom other likely diagnoses have been ruled out (e.g., Respiratory Pathogen Panel is negative)
- Nature of disease onset – COVID typically has prodrome (vs. flu which has rapid onset)
- Chest X-ray with bilateral infiltrates/ground-glass opacities
- History of international travel or travel to locale in US with community transmission

Direction to stop using the Sheriff Watch Commander phone

Providers and other members of the community are asked to stop using the Sheriff Watch Commander phone line for matters related to COVID-19. The volume of calls has disrupted the Watch Commander's ability to respond to other urgencies. **All calls related to COVID-19, whether they occur during or outside of regular business hours, should be directed to the Public Health Department at (805)781-5500.**