

NOTE: Testing supply shortages mean that testing criteria may need to change through this event.

Public health consultation should always be sought before submitting specimens to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Public Health (BPH), West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). OLS [Specimen collection guidance](#) and the [Specimen submission form](#) can be found at www.coronavirus.wv.gov.

While COVID-19 testing performed at OLS still requires approval from the state health department, testing performed at commercial labs does not require review or approval and is based on the clinical judgment of the health care provider. This expansion of lab testing capacity enables health care providers to err on the side of broader testing to facilitate identification and isolation of COVID-19 infected patients. Physicians who order testing through private labs should complete the COVID-19 Person Under Investigation (PUI)/Case Report Form available from [DHHR](#) for all suspect cases and fax to DHHR's Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) at 304-558-8736. Physicians should report suspect or confirmed cases immediately to the local health department by phone.

Individuals currently prioritized for testing by the West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services include the following:

- 1) **Seriously ill individuals hospitalized or otherwise at high risk of complications:** This includes seriously ill individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) who are:
 - a. Hospitalized OR
 - b. Near hospitalization OR
 - c. Otherwise at highest risk of poor health outcomes including:
 - i. Persons over the age of 65
 - ii. Those with serious underlying chronic diseases
 - iii. Those living in nursing homes or assisted living facilitiesAND
 - d. Who do not have another identified cause for their illness. *Please do everything possible to have a negative respiratory panel first. If provider is unable to perform respiratory testing, testing can be completed at OLS prior to COVID-19 testing.*

No history of potential exposure is needed for these patients.

OR

- 2) **Individuals at medium to high risk of having been infected:** This includes any individual with symptoms of lower respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and:
 - a. A history of likely exposure to COVID-19 within 14 days of their symptom onset.
 - i. Close contact with an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 **OR**
 - ii. Travel history from or living in area with ongoing community transmission[†]
 - b. Who do not have another identified cause for their illness. *Please do everything possible to have a negative respiratory panel first. If provider is unable to perform respiratory testing, testing can be completed at OLS prior to COVID-19 testing.*

[†]Areas with ongoing community transmission include:

- a. US states with confirmed community transmission include Illinois, California, Washington, and New York. For the most up to date information, please refer to CDC's interactive map "States Reporting Cases of COVID-19 to CDC" at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.
- b. Countries with widespread ongoing transmission include: China, Iran, South Korea and most of Europe. For the most up-to-date information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>.
- c. Cruise ships are also considered an area of widespread community transmission.