

March 16, 2020

COVID-2019: Reporting Positive Test Results, Updated Testing and PPE Guidance

Actions Requested

- **Please report positive COVID-19 test results immediately** to Kitsap Public Health Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235
- **Follow updated Testing Guidance for patients with COVID-19 symptoms from the WA State Department of Health (DOH) (3/15/2020):**
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Interim-2019NovelCoronavirusQuicksheetProviders.pdf>
 - **Should be tested:**
 - Patients hospitalized with severe lower respiratory illness
 - Staff that work in any setting where healthcare services are delivered (e.g., clinics, hospitals, behavioral health care clinics)
 - Patients in other public safety occupations (e.g., law enforcement, fire fighter, EMS)
 - Patients who live or work in in an institutional setting (e.g., corrections, long term care facility, homeless/shelters)
 - **Test if patient symptoms worsen or if healthcare provider recommends testing:**
 - Patients older than 60 years
 - Patients with underlying medical conditions
 - Pregnant women
 - **No need to test younger, healthy individuals with mild illness**
 - Testing is not recommended in persons who are asymptomatic
 - A negative test result does not rule out an infection
 - Review DOH Testing Guidance document for information about which lab to use (PHL, UW, commercial)
- **Collect and test a single upper respiratory nasopharyngeal swab (NP)** per March 13, 2020 revision to CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
 - For initial diagnostic testing for COVID-19, CDC recommends collecting and testing an upper respiratory nasopharyngeal swab (NP). Collection of oropharyngeal swabs (OP) is a lower priority and if collected should be combined in the same tube as the NP.
- **Make sure specimens sent to the PHL and commercial labs for testing include:**
 - Full patient name
 - Complete address
 - Date of birth
 - Phone number
 - Incorrect or missing information delays test result delivery and increases processing time and effort.

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- **Continue to privately purchase PPE as possible**, using your existing contracts and relationships with suppliers.
 - Keep a pulse on your suppliers supply chain and ask for a priority hot shot order to be pending in their system. Different suppliers may have different supply distributors and are seeking additional ways to meet your needs – keep checking in with them to ensure you get early access to new supplies.
- **Stay up-to-date on PPE guidance and how to prioritize supplies** when they are limited. Implement PPE conservation strategies and cancel or limit elected procedures to improve PPE use and availability.
 - Updated PPE recommendations for when facemasks can be used as an acceptable alternative when respirators cannot meet the demand: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>
 - Strategies for Preserving PPE in Healthcare: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Preserving%20PPE%20in%20Healthcare%20COVID%2019.pdf>, including consideration of reducing procedures/visits that are high PPE consumers
- **Understand WA State Department of Health Guidelines for Prioritization of Allocation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** (attached)
- **Send all urgent PPE resource requests to the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center** at: logs@kitsapem.org
- **Questions? Please contact our Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235**

Background

7 Kitsap County residents have tested positive for COVID-19 as of 2pm, Monday, March 16, 2020. 113 tests have been negative.

Guidelines for Prioritization of Allocation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Purpose:

The process is intended to guide DOH on how to prioritize the fulfillment of resource requests for PPE across the state to meet the needs of the response to COVID-19. PPE is a scarce resource and difficult to procure across the state, nationally, and internationally. The prioritization document does not guarantee fulfillment of every order that meets the priority criteria nor does it ensure fulfillment of complete orders. Orders may be partially filled due to limited stock. The Secretary of Health, State Health Officer or Unified Command have the ability to modify this criteria based on emerging response needs.

Prioritization for PPE

TIER #1

1. Long Term Care Facilities with **confirmed cases**
2. Hospitals with the most number of **confirmed cases**
3. EMS and first responders – who are being asked to transport **confirmed cases**
4. Healthcare workers carrying out support to Long Term Care Facilities with **confirmed cases**

TIER #2

5. Healthcare facilities with a **confirmed cases**
6. Congregate locations with **confirmed cases** (Shelter, Jail, Dorm)
7. Other EMS
8. Quarantine / Isolation Facilities run by Washington State Department of Health

TIER #3

9. Quarantine / Isolation Facilities run by other jurisdiction
10. Skilled Nursing Facilities
11. Other healthcare facilities
12. Outpatient facilities

TIER #4

13. Homeless Shelter and other congregate locations such as jails, dorms
14. Families of **confirmed cases** who are at home

Other Considerations

- Recommend fill orders for up to 7 days (with assurance no gap between current order and new order)
- Amount - Methodology for quantities of PPE allocate (Recommendation based on facility size, number of HC workers, number of confirmed or suspected cases – or # patients needing to be assessed X # PPE change changes necessary X number of days being fulfilled for)
- Differentiation of prioritization for N95 masks—Recommend the locations that perform aerosol generating procedures have highest