

April 17, 2020

COVID-19 Updates for Providers

Actions Requested

- **Understand the populations at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19** include people 65 years and older, people who live in a nursing home or other long-term care facility, and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions particularly if not well controlled. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>
- **Review current guidelines for collecting specimens for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing.** All upper respiratory specimens should be placed in appropriate medium. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html> (Updated 4/17/2020)
 - **Nasopharyngeal specimen is preferred choice**, swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear. Gently rub and roll the swab and leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove swab while rotating it.
 - Other acceptable specimens include:
 - **Oropharyngeal** specimen: rub swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx and avoid touching the tongue, teeth, and gums.
 - **Nasal mid-turbinate (NMT)** specimen: tilt patient's head back 70 degrees, while gently rotating the swab, insert swab less than one inch (about 2 cm) into nostril. Rotate the swab several times against nasal wall. Sample both nostrils using the same swab.
 - **Anterior nares** specimen: insert the swab at least 1 cm inside the nares and firmly sample the nasal membrane by rotating the swab and leaving in place for 10-15 seconds, sample both nares with the same swab.
- **Continue to follow Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 testing information for healthcare providers:** <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/Interim-2019NovelCoronavirusQuicksheetProviders.pdf>
- **Watch for information about ordering test kits** from the Kitsap County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on Monday April 20, 2020. The EOC has a limited supply of test kits available for distribution to Kitsap healthcare organizations. Use of these kits must follow Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 Testing Information for Healthcare Providers guidance (see previous bullet)
- **Report positive COVID-19 test results immediately** to Kitsap Public Health Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235
- **Notify Kitsap Public Health Communicable Disease staff within 24 hours of any death associated with a positive COVID-19 test** by calling 360-728-2235

Questions? Please contact our Communicable Disease staff at 360-728-2235

Background

135 Kitsap County residents have tested positive for COVID-19 and 1 Kitsap County resident death has been associated with COVID-19 as of 4 PM on April 16, 2020

Resources

- CDC guidance for health care providers & facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>
- DOH COVID-19 page: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- KPHD COVID-19 page: <https://kitsappublichealth.org/CommunityHealth/CoronaVirus.php>