# Submitting Specimens for 2019-novel coronavirus testing (COVID-2019/SARS-CoV-2), Order 2019-nCoV RT-PCR

Geisinger Diagnostic Medicine Institute (DMI), Laboratory Medicine: Process for Test Ordering, Specimen Collection and Transport

Patient Requirements

## **Clinical Sign Requirements:**

FEVER AND/OR SYMPTOMS of Lower Respiratory (LRT) Disease (e.g., shortness of breath, cough) whether a hospitalization is required or not.

### **PROVIDER PATHWAY**

Requirement Summary: Patients with SIGNIFICANT respiratory symptoms AND recent travel to a geographic region with sustained SARS-CoV-2 transmission or close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case. (Guidance is subject to change.)

## **Epidemiology Requirements:**

Within 14 days of symptom onset: 1) A person (including healthcare workers) who had close contact with a laboratory confirmed case; or 2) travel to mainland China or a geographic region with sustained SARS-Cov-2 transmission

Infection Control

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- Place a surgical mask on the patient.
   Move patient to a private room/area.
- 3. Text Infection Prevention & Control and
- provide 2 forms of patient identification 4. Infectious Disease Svc. (Adult/Pediatrics) consult is mandatory.
  - 5. Prepare for specimen collection.

Note: Optimal isolation includes the use of a negative pressure room and the use of contact and airborne precautions throughout the visit.

For healthcare workers: Minimal personal protective equipment (PPE) includes gown, gloves, mask, and eye protection.



Specimen Collection and Transport

Current Test Order: To assess other pathogens, order DMI Respiratory Pathogen Panel ( RPPCR). Submit an NP sample to Geisinger Laboratory Medicine

### **ORDER TESTS: Collect Patient Data and Specimens.**

- 1. Complete the Patient Under Investigation (PUI) Form\*
- Collect a) Two NP swab in UTM, b) One OP swab in UTM, and c) an LRT in sterile screw-cap collection device, i.e., 2-3 mL of BAL, tracheal aspirate, or expectorated (deep-cough) sputum collected <u>after</u> mouth is rinsed with water.
   Call PADOH, 1-(877) 724-3258 (PAHEALTH) for PUI case review\*.
- 5. IF approved by PADOH and a CDC nCOV-ID number is assigned, transport all samples at refrigerated temp. (2-8 ° C) in a single bag.

**Current DOH Test Order:** 

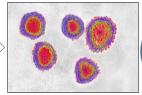
Order Epic Misc. COVID-2019 (no charge to patient, results turnaround time will vary)

Laboratory Testing

DMI will perform RPPCR to identify "regular" coronaviruses, which include strains 229E, HKU1, NL63, and OC43. Tests are billable.
Typically, results file to Epic in 2-8 hrs.

GML's current Respiratory panel does NOT detect the SARS-CoV-2, but GML offers another assay that does. Order as

2019-nCoV RT-PCR



Until 3/6/2020 PADOH will test for COVID-2019 by RT-PCR. Typically, results are scanned into Medical Record. GML DMI test order = 2019-nCoV RT-PCR), available beginning 3/9/2020

dmw 02/10/2020, updated dmw, 3/3/2020 based on new PADOH/CDC guidance

\*Link to PUI form = https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf Specimen collection Guides:

PADOH: https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2019nCoVSpecimenInstructions.pdf GLM Laboratory Test Catalogue: https://www.qeisingermedicallabs.com/MicroApp/index.shtml

### LEGEND

CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention DMI = Diagnostic Medicine Institute GLM = Geisinger Laboratory Medicine

PADOH = PA Department. of Health PUI = Patient Under Investigation

### SPECIMEN LEGEND

BAL = bronchoalveolar lavage

LRT = Lower Respiratory Tract specimen

NP = nasopharyngeal swab
OP = oropharyngeal swab (throat)