10X Essentials
A Publication of Geisinger Medical Laboratories
Division of Molecular and Microbial Diagnostics
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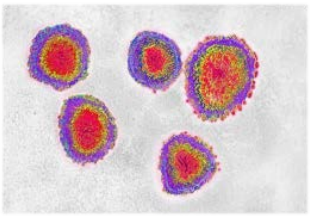
Geisinger
Diagnostic Medicine Institute

New information about COVID-2019

According to the PA Dept. of Health (PADOH) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), patients must meet specific criteria to be considered for COVID-2019 testing. To submit testing for COVID-2019, key clinical and epidemiology requirements must be met.

Clinical Requirements = FEVER AND/OR SYMPTOMS of Lower Respiratory (LRT) Disease (e.g., shortness of breath, cough), whether hospitalization is required or not.
Epidemiology Requirements = **Within 14 days of symptom onset,** 1) A person (including healthcare workers) who had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-2019 case; or 2) travel from China's Hubei Province or mainland China.

Submitting Specimens for 2019-novel coronavirus testing (COVID-2019)



If your patient meets the criteria listed above, Order tests, document patient data, and collect specimens.

1. **Complete the Patient Under Investigation (PUI) Form*** **https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf**
2. **Collect samples**

a) Two nasopharyngeal swabs b) Sputum or similar LRT specimen
c) serum for serology d) stool, if possible

3. **Transport all samples at refrigerated temperature (2-8 ° C) in a single biohazard bag labeled "COVID-2019"**

Order the PADOH testing for COVID-2019
Order an Epic Misc. Test and write in "COVID-2019 testing." PADOH testing incurs no charge to patients. The result turnaround time will vary. The results will be scanned into Epic.

Order traditional testing: Based on DOH guidance, Laboratory Medicine is recommending Geisinger's current respiratory virus testing be performed: To assess for routine viral pathogens, order the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPPCR). Submit sample(s) to Geisinger Laboratory Medicine. The routine RPPCR testing may be discontinued if/when the COVID-19 pandemic occurs in our region.
Current DMI testing does not detect COVID-2019. 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 < 8 hrs. DMI will launch the COVID-2019 assay in Spring 2020 with an Epic orderable test called 2019-nCoV RT-PCR.

Refer to the Flowchart on page 2 for a User's Guide to Test submission. This information is subject to change as details related to the outbreak change.

For questions, please contact our Analytical Specialists.
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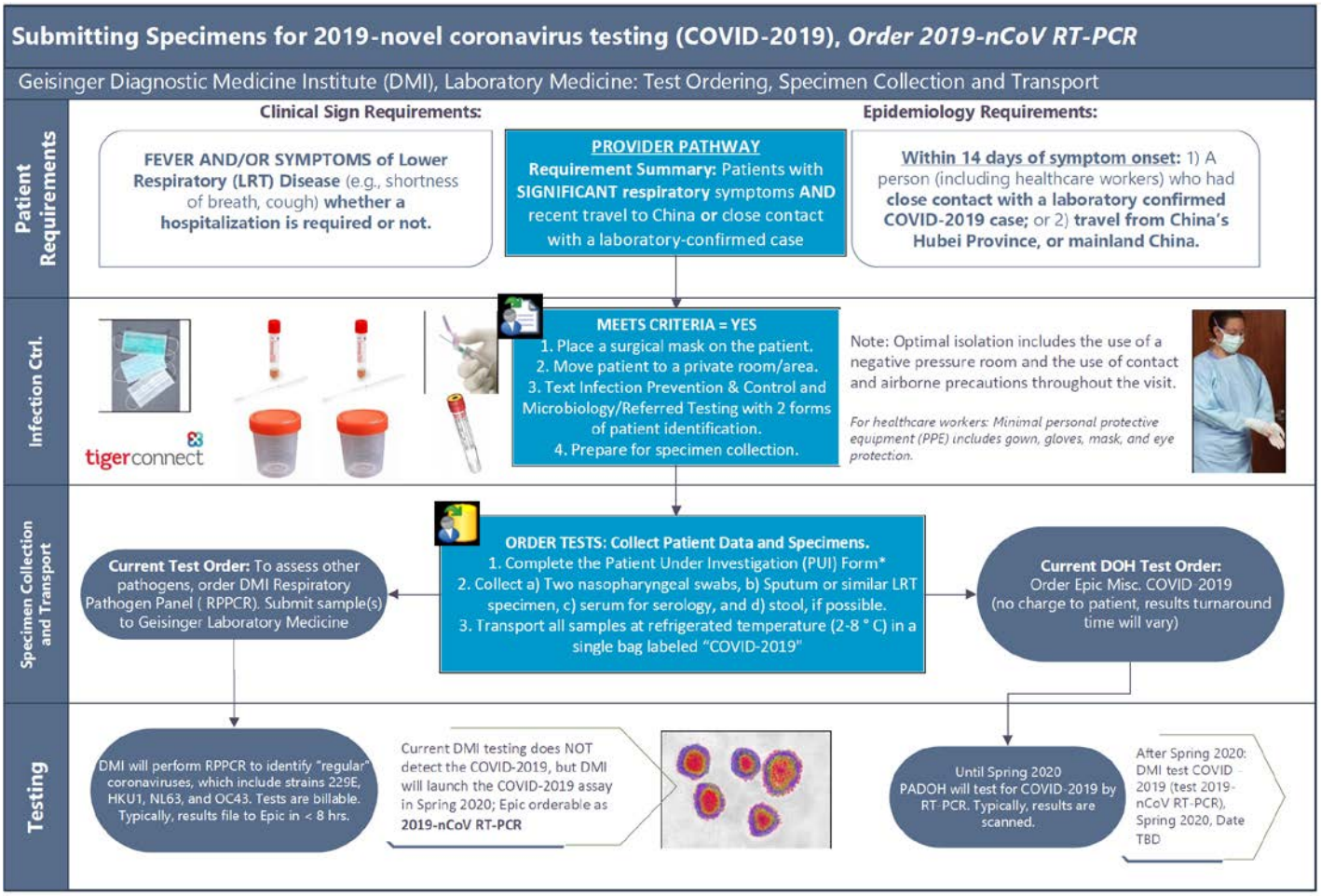
DMI Test Request Workflow



dmw 02/10/2020
*Link to PUI form =
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf
https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2019nCoVSpecimenInstructions.pdf