

Client Communication



A Partnership of ProMedica
and Sonic Healthcare 

March 11, 2020

ProMedica Pathology Laboratories is pleased to announce that testing for SARS-Cov-2/COVID-19 is available effective immediately.

Due to strong market demand and limited supply nationwide, priorities will be given to high risk patients in accordance to CDC guidelines and endemic regions and clusters.

Test Information:

Test Code: 39430
Test Name: SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) PCR HIGH RISK

Test Code: 39429
Test Name: SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) BY RT-PCR

Ordering Recommendations:

Ordering provider to determine patient risk level based on CDC Guidelines and clinical judgement.

- Sonic has created two orderable codes to triage patients, prioritize testing and coordinate with public health authorities:
 - **SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19) - High Risk:** Patients who are symptomatic, exhibiting respiratory illness (cough, fever, and dyspnea) AND have traveled to a COVID-19 endemic area, have been in close contact with a known COVID-19 patient or are otherwise considered High Risk exposure from an epidemiological perspective.
 - **SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19):** All others
- Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI (Persons Under Investigation) for COVID-19: The CDC currently states Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness.

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- Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.
- In accordance with public health guidance, clinicians should prioritize testing to following groups:
 1. Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 in order to inform decisions related to infection control.
 2. Other symptomatic individuals, such as older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease).
 3. Any person, including healthcare personnel, who within 14 days of symptom onset had close contact with a suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient, or who had a history of travel from affected geographic areas.

Specimen Requirements:

Sample Type:

- Upper Respiratory Tract: Nasopharyngeal Swab
- Lower Respiratory Tract: Bronchoalveolar Lavage, Tracheal Aspirate, or Sputum

Container Type: **Prefer dedicated collection device*

- Nasopharyngeal swab: Viral or Universal Transport Media (VTM, UTM or M4RT) with Swab.
- Sputum: Sterile Cup
- Bronchoalveolar lavage/ tracheal aspirate: Sterile Cup

Handling Instructions:

Nasopharyngeal Swab:

Insert a swab into the nostril parallel to the palate. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions. Place swab immediately into sterile tube containing 2- 3 mL of viral transport media*.

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Bronchoalveolar Lavage, Tracheal Aspirate: Collect 2-3 mL into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. Refrigerate specimen at 2-8°C and ship overnight on ice pack.

Sputum:

Have the patient rinse the mouth with water and then expectorate deep cough sputum directly into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. Refrigerate specimen at 2-8°C and ship overnight on ice pack. NOTE: Induction of sputum is not recommended.

Transport: Critical Refrigerated

Unsuitable Specimens: Ambient specimens. Swabs not in viral transport media. Calcium alginate swabs. Swabs with wooden shafts.

Testing Capacity:

- Testing is performed seven days a week.
- Expected TAT is 2-4 days. TAT may vary with changes in capacity and market demands.

CPT Codes: U0001 Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

LOINC Codes: SARS-CoV-2 Interpretation (94306-8), Naso and Oro SARS-CoV-2 (94316-7), Nasopharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 (94316-7), Oropharyngeal SARS-CoV-2 (94316-7), Sputum SARS-CoV-2 (94316-7), Other Source SARS-CoV-2 (94316-7), Other Source (31208-2)