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## STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 TESTING

### LOCATIONS LABORATORY TEST: SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR

**Purpose:** This standing order is issued by the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Department of Health Services. This standing order authorizes any medical provider/ trained personnel at a medically-supervised COVID-19 testing unit in the State of Nevada to collect and send a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test for any individual in accordance with the conditions of this order.

**Standing Orders Authorization:** This standing order is issued pursuant to the Governor's Declaration of State of Emergency on March 12, 2020, pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes, Chapter 414, which directs state agencies to "save lives, protect property, and protect the health and safety of persons in this state".

This standing order shall remain in effect until the state of emergency declared on March 12, 2020 is terminated or unless renewed by a subsequent Directive promulgated pursuant to the March 12, 2020 Declaration of Emergency to facilitate the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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#### PATIENT ELIGIBILITY

The following criteria are required for a medical provider/trained personnel at a testing unit to collect a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test by this standing order:

Individual who is concerned that he or she has been exposed to and infected with COVID-19

**AND**

Individual who has signed a consent and voluntary isolation agreement (or parent/guardian, if patient cannot legally consent).

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#### PLAN OF CARE

Medical provider/ trained personnel operating at a testing unit may collect a nasopharyngeal swab and order a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR.

A. Preparation to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:

1. Ensure correct testing materials: (1) Sterile Dacron/nylon swab with an aluminum or plastic shaft (cotton swabs with wooden shafts are not recommended); (1) Viral transport media tube with 1-3mL of sterile viral transport medium.
2. Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical provider: gloves, gowns, surgical mask (or respirator) and eye protection (goggles or face shield).

B. Instructions to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:

1. By medical provider/ trained personnel:
  - o Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.
  - o Insert swab into nostril **parallel** to the palate. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions.
  - o Slowly remove swab while rotating it.
  - o Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.

2. By patient: Follow manufacturer-specific instructions for specimen collection.
- C. Instructions to process clinical specimens:
1. Store specimens at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.
  2. Process specimens in accordance with national biological safety regulations, procedures as listed under the CDC Emergency Authorization Agreement, and the supervising Nevada healthcare facility.

NOTE: Emergency medical services should be activated **if** a patient appears toxic, is struggling to breathe, or moribund.

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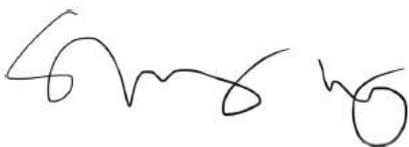
#### FOLLOW-UP AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Test results should be reported to the patient within one week of the testing unit's receipt of the test result.
2. A positive result requires continued in-home isolation per local health department recommendations.
3. All COVID-19 laboratory test results are **required to be reported** to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Local Health District/Department (Southern Nevada Health District, Washoe County Health District, and Carson City Health and Human Services) as required under NRS 441A.120 and NAC 441A.108, subsection 2, c.

**NAC 441A.085** "Extraordinary occurrence of illness" defined. ([NRS 441A.120](#)) "Extraordinary occurrence of illness" means: 1. A disease which is not endemic to this State, is unlikely but has the potential to be introduced into this State, is readily transmitted and is likely to be fatal, including, but not limited to, typhus fever. 2. An outbreak of a communicable disease which is a risk to the public health because it may affect large numbers of persons or because the illness is a newly described communicable disease, including, but not limited to: (a) An outbreak of an illness related to a contaminated medical device or product. (b) An outbreak of an illness suspected to be related to environmental contamination by any infectious or toxic agent. (c) An outbreak of a newly emerging disease, including, but not limited to, avian influenza. 3. A case of an illness that is known or suspected to be related to an act of intentional transmission or biological terrorism.

***Please note this must be reported immediately for confirmed cases and for suspect cases that are still awaiting laboratory confirmation.***

4. All providers of healthcare, healthcare facilities, and medical laboratories **must report all suspect, probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 and all laboratory test results** by using Nevada's Confidential Morbidity Report Form, located online: [http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/Public\\_Health\\_Informatics\\_and\\_Epidemiology\\_-\\_Home/](http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/Public_Health_Informatics_and_Epidemiology_-_Home/)



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