

George Latimer
County Executive

Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

ATTENTION

Public Health Alert

DATE: September 17, 2020

SUBJECT: 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
Testing and Laboratory Updates

- **Additional testing is not recommended and should be discouraged for patients that test positive for COVID-19 by a diagnostic test, such as a PCR or antigen test.**
- **Current guidance requires local health departments to treat any individual with a positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen test, regardless of a simultaneous or subsequent negative test result(s), as potentially infectious and thus subject to isolation and contact tracing. Contacts to such individuals require identification and quarantine.**
- **Negative COVID-19 rapid or point of care antigen tests must be confirmed by a conventional COVID-19 RT-PCR test as rapid antigen tests are highly specific but not very sensitive. **Negative COVID-19 rapid point of care RT-PCR tests** in **symptomatic** individuals or **patients exposed to a COVID-19 lab positive case** also should be confirmed by a **conventional COVID-19 RT-PCR test**.**
- **Per the NYSDOH Advisory at https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_covid19_reportingtestresults_rev_043020.pdf, all COVID-19 testing must be reported to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) electronically through the NYSDOH Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS) and the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDH) regardless of whether your office or facility is permitted to operate as a lab within NYS. This includes the more recently available Point of Care (POC) rapid antigen and PCR test results. If you are reporting COVID-19 test results electronically through ECLRS, there is no need to independently fax report to WCDH.**

Assistance with electronic reporting is available at 1-866-325-7743. If your ability to report lab results electronically is still in progress, please fax positive COVID-19 lab reports to 914-813-5182 together with the attached reporting form.

- **NYSDOH Wadsworth Center has posted a listing of labs with excess COVID-19 testing capacity at <https://www.wadsworth.org/testing-capacity> which will be updated weekly**

Please note these labs do not offer specimen collection services.

Thank you as always for your support and commitment during this COVID-19 public health emergency.

These Public Health Updates also are posted to the Physician section of the WCDH website at <https://health.westchestergov.com/physician-corner>

COVID-19 Reporting Form
Providers Serving Westchester County Residents
Westchester County Department of Health
FAX to 914-813-5182

Patient Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Municipality of Residence: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: (____) ____-____ Cell Phone: (____) ____-____

Email address: _____

Gender: Male Female Ethnicity: Hispanic Non-Hispanic Unknown

Race: White Black Asian Native American/Alaskan
 Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian Other Unknown

Is patient a staff or resident of a congregate living facility (nursing home, assisted living facility, group home, shelter, correctional facility, residential children's facility, residential school or college)?

YES NO

If YES, please provide Facility:

Name _____ Telephone (____) ____-____

Address _____ ZIP Code _____

**Date of Diagnosis: PLEASE PROVIDE COVID-19 POSITIVE (+) LAB REPORT
The Lab Report MUST SPECIFY THE MANUFACTURER AND TEST KIT USED.**

Reporting Individual: Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____ Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Additional Comments: _____
