

KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Communicable Disease and Epidemiology
700 Fuller, N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
PHONE 616/632-7228 - FAX 616/632-7085



Adam London, PhD, R.S., D.A.A.S.
Administrative Health Officer

Nirali Bora, M.D.
Medical Director

HEALTH ADVISORY March 5, 2020

Update for Kent County healthcare providers on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for testing changed significantly on 3/4/2020. If you are a healthcare provider testing a patient for COVID-19, contact Kent County Health Department (KCHD) at **(616) 632-7228** during business hours, **(616) 308-6837** after-hours. If you are unable to reach KCHD, call the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Communicable Disease Division at: **(517) 335-8165** during business hours, **(517) 335-9030** after-hours.

New CDC guidelines as of March 4, 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

- Healthcare providers should use their judgment to determine if a patient should be tested for COVID-19.
- Most patients with COVID-19 have fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness
- Epidemiologic factors that may help guide decisions on whether to test include:
 - Any persons, including healthcare workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
 - Persons with a history of travel from affected areas within 14 days of symptom onset: U.S. state with confirmed cases, CDC travel warnings include China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea
- All travelers returning from China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea are asked to stay home for 14 days from departure and to practice social distancing
- KCHD will monitor travelers from China and Iran for 14 days after departure

Laboratory testing in Michigan for COVID-19

- Until commercial and healthcare facility-based lab testing is available, the MDHHS Laboratory is the only lab able to perform COVID-19 testing in the state. There may be delays in this process until capacity expands.
- As availability of diagnostic testing increases, clinicians will be able to access local clinical laboratories performing tests authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).
- Any individuals being tested should be reported immediately KCHD: **(616) 632-7228**. A case investigation form will need to be completed:
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/MDHHS_CDC_PUI_Form_and_Cover_Sheet_Fillable_v02.03.2020_68023_0_7.pdf
- Testing is performed with a nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab and sputum if patient has a productive cough that is sent in viral transport media with an ice pack via courier to MDHHS lab.

Personal Protective Equipment

- We recognize that there is a shortage of N95 masks nationwide and share the concern of local healthcare providers who are at risk. The CDC has guidance on how to extend the use of these masks:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/checklist-n95-strategy.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/release-stockpiled-N95.html>

END