INFORMATION ABOUT TESTING FOR COVID-19
3-16-2020

Who Should be Tested:
- Symptoms of COVID-19 AND
- Epidemiological link to a geographic area with cases OR
- Known exposure to someone with COVID-19 OR
- Severe respiratory illness with no other explanation

Test Procedures:
- You may collect the specimen at your office or send the patient to a screening site.
- If collecting specimens in your office:
  1. Only a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is needed. You no longer need to collect OP swabs.
  2. Collect the specimen in a closed exam room, or outside from the patient vehicle.
  3. Wear a procedure/surgical mask, gown, gloves, goggles while collecting the specimen.
  4. The swab must be placed in viral transport medium and sent to Munson lab on ice.
  5. See documentation requirements below. Tests cannot be sent to MDHHS for COVID-19 testing without complete documentation and a PUI number.
  6. If sending the specimen to a commercial lab, please fax the PUI documentation forms indicated in the documentation section of this notice to the health department at 231-882-0143. When you receive results, notify us by calling 231-882-2112 during business hours, and 231-256-0210 evenings and weekends.

- If sending the patient to a COVID-19 screening site:
  1. If possible, do rapid flu test in your office.
  2. Testing at these sites are only available with a health care provider order. They are not open to the public.
  3. Order forms must be completed and faxed to the testing site before the patient will be tested.
  4. After faxing the forms, the health care provider calls the test site to verify that forms were received and can then direct the patient to go to the site for testing.
  5. Testing sites:
     Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital
     Testing will be done 8-10, 2-4 Monday-Friday
     Fax forms to: 231-352-2234
     231-352-2380
     
     Munson Foster Family Community Health Center
     Fax Forms to: 231-392-7355
     Call to verify form receipt and Ok for patient to be tested: 231-935-9269
What Documentation is Required for Testing
1. Michigan Person Under Investigation (PUI) Case Report Form Cover Sheet
2. CDC Person Under Investigation Case Report Form (2 pages)
3. State of Michigan Microbiology/Virology Test Request Form
   - Select “Other” in the “Tests that require MDHHS approval” section on the form and write in COVID-19.
   - Include the PUI number in section 8 on the back of the form
   - Under “Specimen Source”, Select “Other” and write in NP Swab

Fax the 3 pages of the PUI/Case report form to the health department at 231-882-0143. We will call either you or the lab with the PUI number required for testing.

All 4 pages (PUI/Case Report Form and Lab Requisition) must be faxed to the testing site, or enclosed in the specimen when sent to the lab

Patient Education
A patient who is being tested would have symptoms and a risk factor for COVID-19 and therefore should be instructed to stay at home test results are received.

Encourage them to keep distance between themselves and other household members (e.g. separate bedroom, separate bathroom if possible; 6-foot distance). Also discuss the need to clean commonly touched areas such as doorknobs, countertops, and bathroom fixtures after contact.

The health department has developed a simple patient education sheet that can be provided.

NOTE: Due to a backlog of tests, it may be several days and up to a week before results are received.

If you have questions or need to speak to someone from the health department please call 231-882-2112 during business hours and 231-256-0210 after hours.