Testing for COVID-19 in Mississippi is currently available through the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Public Health Laboratory and through a variety of hospital and commercial labs (e.g. LabCorp, Quest, AEL and others). Most outpatient testing should now be directed to private commercial labs, or other local partners as they come online. Samples submitted to MSDH from outpatient settings will be performed as quickly as possible, but delays in reporting are likely.

Updated MSDH and CDC Community Based Testing Sites Guidance (see CDC at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html for Priorities for Testing)

Priorities for COVID-19 testing (Nucleic Acid or Antigen testing):

**High Priority:**
- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers, workers in congregate living settings, and first responders with symptoms
- Residents in long-term care facilities or other congregate living settings, including prisons and shelters, with symptoms
- Persons identified through public health cluster and selected contact investigations

**Priority:**
- Persons with symptoms of potential COVID-19 infection, including: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, new loss of taste or smell, vomiting or diarrhea and/or sore throat
- Residents without symptoms in long term care and residential living facilities with COVID-19 outbreaks
- Persons without symptoms who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19

When screening individuals for testing, collect the following details upfront and provide to MSDH if the test is positive:

1. Complete demographic information including name, age, date of birth, etc.
2. Accurate address and phone number
3. Date of onset of symptoms
4. Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, shortness of breath)
5. Underlying chronic medical conditions (e.g., chronic respiratory disease, heart disease, diabetes)
6. Healthcare worker, and if yes where do they work and last time they worked
7. Where they are employed if not a healthcare worker
8. Known contact to a case in the 14 days prior to onset
9. Known travel (including US travel) in the 14 days prior to onset
Covid-19 Testing at the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory
For high priority specimens requiring rapid turn-around – direct drop off to the State Public Health Lab is recommended. Please designate the Priority Group for testing on the Laboratory Requisition Form (https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/8500.pdf) when submitting to the PHL to ensure the tests are performed as priority (i.e., hospitalized, outbreak, long-term care resident).

If you identify a positive COVID-19 case, please fax to 601-576-7497 (fax information on COVID-19 positive cases only). This information will be required for epidemiologic investigations of confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Updated 4/30/2020