

### Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Testing Update

Effective Date: January 29, 2020

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was recently identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. The highest concentration of confirmed cases of this new virus remain concentrated in China, although sporadic cases have now been diagnosed in several countries including the United States.

Symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection are similar to those of other respiratory viruses that occur this time of year and include: fever, runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, and/or shortness of breath.

Beaumont Laboratory offers sensitive and specific tests for respiratory viruses, however, none can detect the 2019-nCoV. The only test that can specifically identify the 2019-nCoV virus is performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If 2019-nCoV is of concern, providers should obtain a detailed travel history for symptomatic patients and then contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (517-335-8165) prior to collection of specimens.

**Approval from MDHHS must be documented on the completed forms as well as the name of the person granting permission for testing.** PROVIDERS **MUST** first contact their local health departments before contacting MDHHS for approval. Specimens should include two nasopharyngeal swabs, serum and a lower respiratory specimen. Testing should be considered for symptomatic patients who have traveled from China in the last 14 days before onset, or who have had close contact with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV.

Once approved, order the following tests:

1. Respiratory Virus Panel by PCR (on an NP specimen)
  - a. Epic: LAB: 6404, Soft: IRVPG, SunQuest: RPPNP
2. Miscellaneous Sendout Procedure to MDHHS (pending approval)
  - a. Epic: LAB: 6433, Soft: XMISC, Sunquest: LMISC1

Patients should **NOT** be sent to a Patient Service Center for specimen collection. Specimens should be collected in the office if the patient is there or contact Hospital Epidemiology and ask where the patient should present for specimen collection.

The CDC has an ongoing investigation to determine more about this outbreak. Up to date information is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

*Notes:*

- Rule out other causes before testing.
- Consult with an Infectious Disease Specialist before ordering additional testing.
- If you have questions, please contact Client Services (1-800-551-0488, option 5).

Laboratory Test Directory: <http://beaumontlaboratory.com/test-lab-directory>.

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