



Health Advisory:

Recommendation to Expand COVID-19 Testing Criteria; and Testing Availability at CityTestSF

April 28, 2020

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

Widespread community transmission of COVID-19 is continuing to occur in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, capacity for COVID-19 testing in San Francisco has increased at the San Francisco Public Health Laboratory (SFPHL) and at CityTestSF (<https://sf.gov/citytestsf>), the City-sponsored testing sites that are available to any San Francisco resident or essential worker.

CLINICIANS ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND TESTING

Clinicians are **encouraged** to test:

1. **Persons with any one of the symptoms of COVID-19, including: temperature greater than 100F (37.8C), cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, headache, body aches, fatigue, loss of smell, diarrhea, runny nose, or nasal congestion**
2. **Asymptomatic close contacts of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases.**

Please also note the following:

- **Asymptomatic close contacts** may be tested at 2 time points, both at the beginning and the end of the 14-day quarantine period.
- A “**close contact**” of a “case” of COVID-19 is defined as living or staying at the same residence, being an intimate sexual partner, staying within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes while the case is not wearing a mask, or having direct contact for any amount of time with the body fluids or secretions of the case (e.g. was coughed or sneezed on, shared utensils, was provided care by, or provided care for the case, without wearing a mask, gown, and gloves).
- Clinicians should continue to send specimens for testing at other commercial or clinical laboratories per their institution’s policy. However, if other commercial or clinical laboratories are limited in their ability to process specimens, **samples can be sent to the SF Public Health Lab without the need for prior approval.** Please use the COVID-specific specimen collection form at <https://www.sfchcp.org/public-health-lab/forms-specimen-culture-submission/>.



- **If testing demand exceeds capacity for specimen collection at your location** (e.g. lack of PPE, staff, or collection swabs), SFDPH encourages clinicians to prioritize testing for patients in vulnerable populations as listed in the 3/27 Health Advisory: <https://www.sfdcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Testing-COVID19-Health-Advisory-FINAL-03.27.2020.pdf>). Clinicians unable to collect specimens at their location may call the SFDPH COVID-19 Clinical Consultation line at 415-554-2830 to refer patients to a SF Health Network site for testing.
- **If testing demand exceeds capacity for specimen processing at the SF Public Health Lab**, there may be a longer turn-around time for patients who are not members of vulnerable populations.

TESTING AVAILABILITY AT “CITYTESTSF”

At CityTestSF, the City-sponsored testing sites, testing is now available for:

Adults who live in San Francisco or who are frontline or essential workers that serve San Francisco, who have symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

Testing is by appointment at one of the two CityTestSF centers. A physician referral for testing is not necessary. Patients will not be charged for the test and are not required to have health insurance, although patients will be asked for insurance information if available. For additional information see <https://sf.gov/citytestsf>

A frontline or essential worker is one who must leave their home to do their job, and either (a) works directly with vulnerable populations, (b) interacts in person with members of the public, or (c) cannot maintain social distancing at their job.

CityTestSF is planning further expansion of testing at its sites; please continue to check <https://sf.gov/citytestsf> for future updates.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Testing continues to be available at other San Francisco health care sites and systems, by healthcare provider referral. Please check with your plan or site for access and availability.

Persons seeking to enroll in healthcare may call the SF Health Network Call Center at 415-682-1740.

Program Contact Information:

Communicable Disease Control Unit

Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Population Health Division

Tel: (415) 554-2830

Email: cdcontrol@sfdph.org

Fax: (415) 554-2848

<https://www.sfdcp.org>