

DSHS 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Testing

Clinical features & Epidemiologic Risk

Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact ² with a laboratory-confirmed ^{3,4} 2019-nCoV patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province, China ⁵ within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization for severe acute lower respiratory illness ⁴	AND	A history of travel from mainland China ⁵ within 14 days of symptom onset

The criteria are intended to serve as guidance for evaluation. Patients should be evaluated and discussed with public health departments on a case-by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain travel or exposure).

No
2019-nCoV testing not recommended

Yes
Contact Local or Regional Health Department*

Yes
Local Jurisdiction determines if Person meets 2019-nCoV Patient Under Investigation (PUI) criteria

No
2019-nCoV testing not recommended

Yes
Contact DSHS EAIDU and confirm that it meets PUI criteria

Yes
DSHS contacts CDC Emergency Operation Center

Yes
CDC agrees it meets PUI criteria

No
2019-nCoV testing not recommended

Submitter** collects and holds specimen until CDC agrees to testing

Yes
Specimen is shipped to a Texas Public Health Lab (i.e. LRN Lab[^])

Specimen is shipped to CDC

Test Result Notification to TX Public Health Lab[^]

Public Health Lab notifies Regional and Local Health Department of test result

Regional and Local Health Department notifies healthcare facilities or personnel of test results

Additional Information

- CDC 2019-nCoV <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html>
- Situation Summary <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Healthcare Facility

Public Health



Texas Department of State Health Services

¹Fever may be subjective or confirmed.

²Close contact is defined as-

- being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a 2019-nCoV case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a 2019-nCoV case -or-
- having direct contact with infectious secretions of a 2019-nCoV case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

³Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of 2019-nCoV may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

⁴Category also includes any member of a cluster of patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) of unknown etiology in which 2019-nCoV is being considered that requires hospitalization. Such persons should be evaluated in consultation with state and local health departments regardless of travel history.

⁵For persons with travel to China within 14 days that are being regularly monitored by local health departments or referred for evaluation from border screening, testing for nCoV can be considered at the discretion of the health officials for all persons with illnesses with fever and lower respiratory symptoms (those hospitalized or those not hospitalized).

[^]Find your Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Lab at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/eprLRNcontact.shtm>.

*Find your Local Health Department: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/>. **Submitter may include health care facilities, providers, etc.