



IROQUOIS

Healthcare Association

To: IHA Emergency Preparedness Contacts

From: Andrew Jewett, *Director, Hospital Preparedness Program*

Date: March 1, 2020

RE: Updated COVID-19 Evaluation and Testing Guidance

CDC Updates Criteria for COVID-19 Evaluation and Testing

CDC has updated the following interim guidance for identification and testing of Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19:

- Criteria to Guide Evaluation of PUI for COVID-19 *Updated February 27*
- Recommendations for Reporting, Testing, and Specimen Collection *Updated February 28*

A CDC Health Advisory distributed February 28th outlines these revisions which reflect:

- Iran, Italy, Japan and South Korea being areas (in addition to China) with widespread or sustained community transmission, in addition to China; and
- The addition of individuals with febrile severe acute lower respiratory disease requiring hospitalization without known exposure or travel risk factors without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., negative testing results from a respiratory virus panel).

Please click below to read the CDC Health Advisory and updated recommendations.

[CDC Health Advisory 2/28](#)

NYSDOH Advisory on Evaluation, Testing and Notification

A NYSDOH Health Advisory distributed February 29th provides further direction for healthcare facilities and providers:

- LHDs, in consultation with clinicians, should determine whether a patient is a PUI based on CDC's updated criteria.
- Healthcare providers should immediately notify both infection control personnel at their facility and the LHD where the patient resides in the event of a PUI.
 - [LHD contact information](#)
 - If unable to reach the LHD, contact the NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at 518-473-4439 during business hours or the NYSDOH Public Health Duty Officer at 1-866-881-2809 during off hours.
- NYSDOH will provide 24/7 assistance to collect, store, and ship specimens.
- Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen shipping. If a PUI tests positive for another respiratory pathogen, after clinical evaluation and consultation with the LHD or NYSDOH, they may no longer be considered a PUI.
- Providers who have questions about this information should contact their LHD or the NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control.

Please click below to read the NYSDOH Health Advisory.

NYSDOH Health Advisory 2/29

CDC Webinar to Update Clinicians

CDC will hold a webinar on **Thursday March 5th from 2-3 pm** to update clinicians the revised criteria as well as infection prevention and control measures, assessing risks for exposures, optimizing the use of PPE supplies, and patient care and management. Please click the link below for webinar details.

CDC Webinar Update

Iroquois Healthcare Association | (518) 383-5060 | www.iroquois.org

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