



**CITY OF BERKELEY HEALTH ALERT UPDATE
COVID-19 TESTING CHANGES
03/09/2020**

Situation

On March 4, 2020 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [expanded criteria for COVID-19 testing](#), and providers may now use clinical judgment to identify suspect cases. Large commercial laboratories and other non-public health referral laboratories are offering COVID-19 testing. Providers should send specimens to these laboratories. According to the California Department of Public Health, a CDC PUI number or COVID-19 ID number is also not required for testing at these facilities.

Providers assessing City of Berkeley residents should order COVID-19 testing through commercial laboratories and other non-public health laboratories offering COVID-19 testing. Providers may determine which patients are suspect COVID-19 cases using clinical judgment. City of Berkeley Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Program (COB-CDPCP) approval is **NOT REQUIRED** for testing done at commercial laboratories.

Please alert COB-CDPCP for testing of patients with the highest risk of exposure including **close contacts** (household or health care worker) with a lab confirmed case or history of travel to an area with [CDC Level 3 travel warning](#). Providers assessing Berkeley residents should use the [Testing Guidance](#) to request COVID-19 testing by the Alameda County Public Health Lab (ACPHL). ACPHL performs testing on weekdays only.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF PROVIDERS:

1. **Direct COVID-19 testing to commercial laboratories** and other non-public health laboratories now offering COVID-19 testing, when possible.
2. **Request COVID-19 testing by ACPHL using procedure linked above.**
3. **Report priority suspect COVID-19 cases to COB-CDPCP:**
 - Persons with suspected COVID-19 and exposure to a known case
 - Persons with suspected COVID-19 and recent travel to an [area with CDC Level 3 travel warning](#)
 - Healthcare workers with suspected COVID-19 and exposure to a known or suspected case
4. **Report all newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases** by telephone within one hour. COVID-19 is a novel virus infection with pandemic potential, thus confirmed cases are reportable by providers and laboratories as required per Title 17 California Code of Regulations Section 2500.
5. **Ensure specimens from your facility go to appropriate laboratory.**



Health, Housing & Community Services Department
Public Health Division
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit

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Health Officer

Local Health Department Reporting and Contact Information:

For Berkeley Residents:

- Weekdays 8AM-5PM Phone: 510-981-5292
- After Hours Phone: 510-981-5911 and ask for Health Officer on call

All other Alameda County Residents:

- Weekdays 8:30AM-5PM Phone: 510-267-3250
- After Hours Phone: 925-422-7595
- For **non-immediate concerns** email nCoV@acgov.org
- [Contact information for all other Local Health Jurisdictions](#) is available online from CDPH

Other Resources:

[COB Public Health Alerts & Advisories](#)
[CDPH COVID-19 Page](#)
[CDC COVID-19 Page](#)
[WHO COVID-19 Page](#)