

TO: Vermont Health Care Providers
FROM: Jennifer S. Read, MD, Medical Epidemiologist

COVID-19: Additional Information Regarding Laboratory Testing

This Health Update supplements the following Health Advisories:

- [March 20, 2020: COVID-19: Laboratory Testing Process Update](#)
- [March 14, 2020: COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing in Vermont](#)
- [March 6, 2020: Laboratory Testing for Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Background

- Coordination of COVID-19 testing has shifted from the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory to the University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCM).
- The Vermont Department of Health Laboratory continues to serve as a COVID-19 testing facility, along with commercial laboratories utilized by UVMCM.

Requested Action:

- Providers who are able to safely perform test collection at their practices should submit the appropriately labeled and packaged sample to UVMCM. COVID-19 samples should be packaged according to Category B instructions [primary container (tube), inside secondary container (bag), inside a hard-sided box]. All samples for COVID-19 testing should be packaged separately from other samples and labelled COVID-19. Please send samples to UVMCM using your usual courier service.
- If you need to schedule a pickup for samples, please call UVMCM Laboratory Customer Service at (802) 847-5121 or (800) 991-2799.
- Providers in the Burlington area needing to set up an appointment for sample collection may call UVMCM Urgent Care/Fanny Allen at (802) 847-1170. UVMCM Urgent Care will tell the provider where to send the patient for sample collection. The provider then informs the patient of the location for sample collection. Providers in other locations should contact their local collection sites.
- If a patient will have their sample collected at UVMCM Urgent Care or the Essex Fairgrounds, providers should place an order for COVID-19 testing in Epic. Non-Epic users should fax the VDH requisition to UVMCM Laboratory Customer Service at Fax Number at (802) 847-5905 to place an order.
- UVMCM has a COVID-19 Hotline for providers to call if they have questions regarding screening patients for COVID-19 testing: (802) 847-2700.
- UVMCM Laboratory Customer Service: (802) 847-5121 or (800) 991-2799.

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or
vthan@vermont.gov

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.