

DSHS 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Testing Algorithm

Clinical features & Epidemiologic Risk

Fever* and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).	and	In the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from Wuhan City, China.
	-or-	In the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact** with a person who is under investigation for 2019-nCoV while that person was ill.
Fever* or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).	and	In the last 14 days, close contact** with an ill laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient.

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

Contact DSHS EAIDU and confirm that it meets PUI criteria

DSHS contacts CDC Emergency Operation Center

CDC agrees it meets PUI criteria

No

2019-nCoV testing not recommended

Yes

Submitter**** sends specimen to CDC lab

Test result notification to DSHS and Submitter****

DSHS provides specimen guidelines

Submitter collects and holds specimen until CDC agrees to testing

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

*Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

**Close contact is defined as-

- being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area, of a novel coronavirus 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 caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case. -or-
- having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

***Find your Local Health Department: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/conditions/contacts/>.

****Submitter may include health care facilities, providers, etc.