DSHS COVID-19 Testing: 3-13-2020

Public Health Testing

- # of test performed in Texas Public Health Labs: 152
- # tested at CDC: 68 (including 13 pending results)
- First public health testing in Texas came on-line: March 3, 2020
- DSHS started testing: March 5, 2020

Testing criteria

DSHS public health labs will test individuals (including health care workers) who have fever and/or symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) AND:

- have had close contact with a confirmed case;
- have traveled to a location with ongoing transmission of COVID-19;
- have risk factors for poor outcomes from COVID-19; or,
- are hospitalized with fever and symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 even if they do not have any risk factors.

Public Health Lab Capacity

All public health testing: 273 people per day (if one specimen per person)

- It was 136 if assuming two specimens which is how all labs began.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory</th>
<th>Completed verification?</th>
<th>Daily Sample Throughput</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dallas County</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubbock</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STL</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>15-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSHS Austin</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How long does it take to get tested?
It depends.

- Once the specimen is received, it takes 24-48 hours for a result.
  - This includes processing the specimen, extracting the RNA, running the PCR and reporting.
- Specimen collection and shipping not in a lab’s control.
- Testing may occur multiple times per day.
  - Not efficient if small numbers.
  - May deplete supplies and materials.
- Not all testing can go to public health labs or the system will be overwhelmed; commercial and hospital-based lab testing must be part of the equation even if it takes a couple of days.
Commercial Labs Testing

# of tests performed through commercial Labs: Unknown

Commercial Labs/Capacity

- Lab Corp (~1200 per day nationally; working to increase capacity)
- Quest (receiving about 1000 specimens per day; 3600 nationally today; 3500 per night through their labs in Texas – start date for Texas 3/23)
- CPL
- Mayo Clinic
- ARUP

What are we doing?

- DSHS is reviewing criteria and processes for testing to maximize public health testing that has been coming on-line over the last week.
- Commercial testing is available.
  - Commercial testing may be sent to labs outside Texas.
  - Results may take several days.
  - It is our understanding that the charge is based on Medicare rates (Labs are working with insurance companies relating to charges.)