Ohio Department of Health

ODH Algorithm for Testing of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Guidance for specimens submitted to the ODH Public Health Laboratory (ODHL) for COVID-19 testing.

(Adapted from CDC Recommendations – Guidance Subject to Change)

Individual presents with:

- Fever **AND/OR**
- Symptoms of acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing)

Yes → Individual, including healthcare workers[1], has close contact[2] with a laboratory-confirmed[3] COVID-19 patient within 14-days of symptom onset.

No → Does not meet criteria for COVID-19 testing at ODHL. Additional workup and follow-up as clinically indicated.

Yes →

1. Rule out other respiratory etiologies.
2. Collect specimens [NP, OP & Sputum (if available)].
3. Notify local health department (LHD).
4. LHD contact ODH BID to discuss testing.
5. Submit to ODHL for COVID-19 testing.

No → Individual has a travel history to an affected geographic area[4] within 14 days of symptom onset.

Yes → Individual is hospitalized.

Yes →

1. Rule out other respiratory etiologies.
2. Collect specimens [NP, OP & Sputum (if available)].
3. Notify local health department (LHD).
4. LHD contact ODH BID to discuss testing.
5. Submit to ODHL for COVID-19 testing.

No → Does not meet criteria for COVID-19 testing at ODHL. Additional workup and follow-up as clinically indicated.

No → Individual has severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS, as evidenced by imaging) **AND** lack of alternative diagnosis (e.g., negative respiratory viral panel, negative rapid flu) **AND** is hospitalized.

No → (back to "Does not meet criteria for COVID-19 testing at ODHL. Additional workup and follow-up as clinically indicated.")

Yes →

1. Collect specimens [NP, OP & Sputum (if available)].
2. Notify local health department (LHD).
3. LHD contact ODH BID to discuss testing.
4. Submit to ODHL for COVID-19 testing.

LHD/ODH

Phone Number:

1-877-774-4636

If you need clinical guidance, call 584-WASH

Submit to ODHL for COVID-19 testing:

1. ODH tests - LAB4680
2. Send 2 swabs, 1 OP and 1 NP, labeled with source site and patient information
3. Must send additional swab if testing for influenza

If doesn't meet criteria per ODH but still sending COVID-19 testing:

1. Non ODH tests - LAB4674
2. Must send additional swab if testing for influenza

last updated 3/13