Information from LabCorp about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

March 5, 2020

On March 5, 2020, LabCorp announced that its LabCorp 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), NAA test will be available today, beginning at 6 p.m. ET, for ordering by physicians or other authorized healthcare providers anywhere in the U.S. For more information, please review the press release.

“We have been intensely focused on making testing for COVID-19 available as soon as possible, working with the government and others to address this public health crisis,” said Adam H. Schechter, president and CEO of LabCorp. “By expanding access to testing in the U.S., and preparing to support the development of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19 through our Covance Drug Development business, we are delivering on LabCorp’s mission to improve health and improve lives.”

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by infection with a new form of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that has now been detected in multiple locations around the world, including the U.S.

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “public health emergency of international concern” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

LabCorp’s focus is on the well-being and safety of our employees and patients, supporting business continuity for us and our customers, and assisting the global response. We are in close contact with public health authorities, and we will continue to monitor this situation and adjust our response as may be necessary or required.

On March 4, 2020, LabCorp joined with colleagues from the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) for a meeting with Vice President Pence and members of the White House’s Coronavirus Task Force. As an industry, clinical labs have taken steps to meet the growing demand for national testing and are part of a newly-formed consortium working together with the Administration, the CDC and FDA as well as state and local public health labs, hospitals and academic medical centers.

Important Information for Patients and Healthcare Providers related to testing for COVID-19:

- Effective on March 5, 2020 at 6 p.m. ET, physicians and other healthcare providers anywhere in the U.S. can order the LabCorp 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), NAA test. The test detects the presence of the underlying virus that causes COVID-19 and is
for use with patients who meet current guidance for evaluation of infection with COVID-19, which is [available here](#).

- **LabCorp does not** currently collect specimens for COVID-19 testing. Patients for whom testing has been ordered should not be sent to a LabCorp location to have a specimen collected.
- COVID-19 testing requires a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport medium, bronchial washings or bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) specimen, which are collected from the nose, throat or lungs, and must be collected by a healthcare provider.
- Patients who are concerned that they or a family member are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should immediately contact their healthcare provider to determine their next steps.
- Individuals seeking testing for COVID-19 should *not* visit a LabCorp location to request a test. Tests must be ordered by a physician or other authorized healthcare provider.
- Healthcare providers should contact their local or state public health authority to obtain guidance on managing patients who may have COVID-19, and about how to access testing for those patients.
- LabCorp can collect, transport, process and test specimens, for lab tests other than COVID-19 from patients who are confirmed positive for, or are suspected of having, COVID-19.
- Please review the [CDC website](#) for the most-current information about COVID-19. State or local health authorities may also have information available.

**Is LabCorp going to make a test available for COVID-19?**

Starting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2020, physicians and other authorized healthcare providers can order the LabCorp 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), NAA test the same way that other tests are ordered from LabCorp. Information about the test, including instructions for specimen collection and preparation, is [available here](#).

**Does LabCorp also offer the CDC test for COVID-19?**

Yes, in addition to its test for COVID-19, LabCorp is also able to perform the CDC 2019-nCoV Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel if needed to meet testing demand. The CDC test is for the presumptive detection of 2019-nCoV RNA in upper and lower respiratory specimens (such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, and nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal aspirate), and other authorized specimens collected from individuals who meet CDC criteria for COVID-19 testing. Please [review LabCorp’s press release](#) for more information.

**What are the signs and symptoms of the COVID-19?**

The symptoms can include a cough, possibly with a fever and shortness of breath. There are some early reports of non-respiratory symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Most people recover within a few days. However, some people — especially the
elderly or people who have a weakened immune system — may develop a more serious infection, such as bronchitis or pneumonia.

- **What is LabCorp doing to protect its employees, patients, and business?**

  In addition to the standard infection control precautions that we follow on a daily basis, LabCorp has taken a number of additional steps to help protect its employees, patients and business. In summary, we have provided information and training to the LabCorp Diagnostics teams, who may need to manage patients and specimens differently during this time. This includes providing specific information for staff at and visitors to our patient service centers (PSCs).

  We have provided employees with updated information about travel restrictions and best practices for minimizing the risk of exposure generally and during any travel that is taken. For our Covance Drug Development business, which has significant employees and operations around the globe, response teams are taking steps to manage through changing business requirements.

- **Are masks or other personal protective equipment available for visitors to LabCorp locations?**

  Current guidance does not support the general use of masks or other personal protective equipment by the public. Patients who meet established criteria will be offered a face mask to help minimize the risk of spreading airborne diseases. The best methods to limit the risk of exposure or spreading the virus are everyday preventative actions as outlined here by the CDC. Hand sanitizer is available at all of our locations, and we encourage its use by all visitors.

- **How is LabCorp preparing for potential impact on its supply chain or logistics?**

  LabCorp is taking reasonable precautions during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak to help maintain business and operational continuity. We are in close contact with our key suppliers and vendors, and we have resiliency plans to help us address impact on our supply chain or logistics. We will provide more information as necessary in the event of any supply chain or logistics issues that may affect patients or customers.

- **How can I get the most-current information from LabCorp related to COVID-19?**

  Please visit this page regularly to obtain the most-current information from LabCorp. We will update this website as new information becomes available.