



LAC DPH Health Advisory:
Health Officer Order Requiring Diagnostic
Testing Access



July 13, 2020

*This message is intended for all healthcare providers in Los Angeles County.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

Key Messages

- All healthcare facilities in Los Angeles County must have an established laboratory relationship for the provision of diagnostic (PCR) testing for SARS-CoV-2 effective July 31, 2020 by [order of the County Health Officer](#).
- Healthcare providers should visit the LAC DPH COVID-19 Provider [website](#) for up-to-date resources and guidance related to diagnostic testing and laboratory capacity. Visit [COVID-19 Testing](#).

Access to Diagnostic Testing Through Healthcare Facilities

Adequate and widespread availability of diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 is essential to slowing the spread of COVID-19. Because LA County mobile testing sites are by appointment only and have recently experienced an increased demand for diagnostic testing, same-day appointments are now limited, and most appointments have typical wait times of 3 to 5 days. For this reason, the Health Officer Order, *Access to Diagnostic Testing Through Healthcare Facilities* was issued on July 8 and is effective for all healthcare facilities within LA County beginning Friday July 31, 2020, with exceptions for facilities located in the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena.

In brief, similar to other lab tests that need to be ordered for patients, all healthcare facilities in the County will need to have an established relationship with a clinical laboratory for the provision of COVID-19 diagnostic (PCR) testing for its patients who are in the facility's pool of current patients, who are assigned to the facility (or a network that includes the facility) by an insurer or other similar payor, or if the facility serves members of the public on a walk-in basis (such as an urgent care clinic). Read the [Health Officer Order](#) for the full set of requirements and expectations.

To facilitate optimal diagnosis and care of patients, whenever feasible, the healthcare facility shall prioritize the use of the laboratory with which it has established a relationship for the provision of COVID-19 diagnostic testing.

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' [Reference Guide to Laboratories Providing COVID-19 PCR Molecular Testing](#) is available to help healthcare organizations identify a laboratory provider that best fits their needs. This guide includes a) Contact Information for labs; b) PCR testing capacity, turnaround time, self-reported sensitivity/specificity, and samples collected by type; c) Lab relationships with payers and provider organizations; d) Lab processing and collection capacity; and e) Lab certification, licensing, and EHR/HIE capabilities.

This information may change over time. Entities should verify this information directly with the lab provider, as appropriate.

This communication was sent by Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Health Officer, County of Los Angeles. To view this and other communications or to sign-up to receive LAHANs, please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan>