

March 7, 2020

To: Placer County Healthcare Providers

From: Dr. Aimee Sisson, Placer County Public Health Officer

Subject: Public Health COVID-19 Lab Testing

Placer County Public Health is focusing on the **public health** response to COVID-19.

Asymptomatic transmission is not the primary driver of this epidemic. Although we cannot guarantee there is no risk of COVID-19 in asymptomatic contacts, limited public health resources will not be used to test asymptomatic individuals.

CDC guidance for individuals with mild respiratory symptoms is to stay home when sick.

Public Health Lab COVID-19 testing is generally only authorized by Placer County Public Health for Placer County residents in these situations:

1. For an individual with concerning symptoms who had close contact with a known COVID-19 positive individual. These symptoms may include but are not limited to fever, cough, shortness of breath, and/or fatigue.
2. For healthcare workers and other emergency responders with concerning symptoms who had close contact with a known COVID-19 positive individual. These symptoms may include but are not limited to fever, cough, shortness of breath, and/or fatigue.
3. For severely ill hospitalized patients with no other explanation for illness.
4. For individuals with concerning symptoms who live in congregate living settings (e.g., board and care, correctional facility, shelter, skilled nursing facility) where there are at least 3 or more individuals who are experiencing concerning symptoms.

Healthcare providers may use their discretion to test individuals who fall outside this criteria using LabCorp or Quest.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aimee Sisson".

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH
Health Officer and Public Health Director
Placer County Health and Human Services Department

* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines close contact as a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case or b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on)