Coronavirus (COVID-19)
healthcare provider information

This document contains important information regarding COVID-19. Please read it in its entirety.

On January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern.

Quest Diagnostics is monitoring the situation closely, and is committed to helping you provide the best care for your patients. Our priority is the health and safety of our employees, patients, and the communities we serve. We encourage healthcare providers to periodically check **QuestDiagnostics.com/COVID19/HCP** for updates on our response to the outbreak.

Important information for our clients:

- On March 5, 2020 Quest Diagnostics announced it will launch a COVID-19 test.
- Quest is launching the test service nationally using a phased approach. Due to expectations of high demand, our initial focus is providers in states closest to our performing laboratory in California, including Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California. We are scaling up testing at other Quest Diagnostics high-complexity laboratories across the U.S. to broaden availability nationally. The locations where our test is available is continually updated on our website.
- Quest is asking healthcare providers to initially prioritize patients in at-risk communities as we scale up COVID-19 testing to service growing national demand.
- The new test aids the presumptive detection of nucleic acid in respiratory specimens of patients meeting the CDC's clinical criteria for COVID-19 testing.
- Patients should be prioritized for testing of COVID-19 if they meet the CDC criteria, including those who may have been exposed to the virus or had contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19, who show signs and symptoms (eg, fever, cough, difficulty breathing), or who live in or recently traveled to a place where transmission of COVID-19 is prevalent.
- COVID-19 specimens can ONLY be collected in physician offices and hospitals. Quest Diagnostics Patient Service Centers and Quest's in-office phlebotomists do not collect respiratory specimens, including those from patients suspected of having COVID-19.
- The test has not been FDA cleared or approved or authorized. The test has been validated according to CLIA, but FDA's independent review of this validation is pending.

For additional information on Quest's COVID-19 testing, please visit **QuestDiagnostics.com/COVID19/HCP**

Additional information ▸

What to know about Quest's COVID-19 testing

What is coronavirus (COVID-19)?
COVID-19 is the name for the respiratory syndrome caused by infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

What is the test name and test code?
The test name in the Test Directory is SARS-CoV-2 RNA, Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR and the test code is 39433.

What is Quest's COVID-19 test?
The SARS-CoV-19 test is a qualitative molecular assay, which amplifies the RNA of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in human specimens such as nasopharyngeal or throat swabs (upper respiratory). Alternative specimens, including bronchial lavage/wash, nasopharyngeal aspirate/wash, or sputum/tracheal aspirate are also acceptable. The technique is a real-time reverse transcription PCR assay.

How do I order the COVID-19 test?
Physicians may order the test using test code 39433 (CPT code TBD*). The COVID-19 test must be ordered on a separate requisition from other tests.

What facilities can collect specimens?
Specimens are to be collected by hospitals, physician offices, and clinics. Quest Diagnostics Patient Service Centers and Quest's in-office phlebotomists do not collect respiratory specimens, including those from patients suspected of having COVID-19.

What type of specimen is collected?
Currently, nasopharyngeal (NP) or oropharyngeal (OP) swab testing is being performed. Lower respiratory specimen tests, including bronchial lavage/wash, nasopharyngeal aspirate/wash, or sputum/tracheal aspirate samples can also be ordered but will be frozen upon receipt, with testing initiating on 3/16/2020. One COVID-19 test will be performed per swab.

What type of swab should be utilized to collect the upper respiratory sample?
Upper respiratory samples should be collected using 1 nasopharyngeal swab in M4, VCM, or UTM media or 1 oropharyngeal swab in another M4, VCM or UTM media. Only sterile Dacron® or Rayon swabs should be used. Do not use calcium alginate or wooden shaft swabs as they may contain substances that inhibit PCR testing.

How do I order appropriate supplies for COVID-19 testing?
Please follow your standard process for ordering Quest supplies.

What is the specimen stability?
Specimens have a 72-hour stability refrigerated.

Are there any special storage or transport procedures for COVID-19 specimens?
COVID-19 specimens must be refrigerated. Clients should follow standard procedure for storage and transport of refrigerated samples. Cold packs/pouches must be used if placing specimens in a lockbox for courier pick-up. COVID-19 is not a STAT test and a STAT pick-up cannot be ordered.

What is expected turnaround time?
Test results are typically available 3-4 days from the time of specimen pick-up, and may be impacted by high demand.

How do I get my results?
Results will be delivered in the same manner as other Quest test results.

For additional information on Quest's COVID-19 testing, please visit **QuestDiagnostics.com/COVID19/HCP**
For questions, contact your Quest Diagnostics representative or call **1.866.MYQUEST**.

*The CPT codes provided are based on American Medical Association guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.

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