



March 11, 2020

On March 10, 2020, Clinical Labs of Hawaii began offering testing for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The test will be performed by our sister lab, Sonic Reference Laboratory, while we complete validations to provide testing locally.

It is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State Department of Health (DOH) to initially test Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for the Flu and/or Respiratory Viral Panel and upon negative result, reflex to COVID-19.

Flu/Respiratory Viral Panel collection kits and COVID-19 collection kits can be obtained by contacting your local CLH Supply Department. For questions, please contact Client Services at (808) 677-7998 on Oahu, or (866) 281-6816 (toll-free) from neighbor islands. Below please find the COVID-19 Test Collection Kit instructions as well as a list of FAQ's.



CLINICAL LABS
OF HAWAII

COVID-19 TEST COLLECTION KIT

Please follow instructions as provided to ensure specimen integrity

Collection Instructions:

1. Collect a Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab (included in this kit).
2. Insert the swab into the viral transport media tube. Ensure the lid is secured tightly to avoid leakage.
3. Clearly label the tube with:
 - Patient first and last name
 - Date of birth
 - Date and time of collection

Specimens will have to be rejected if the label is missing information, illegible or if leakage occurs.

4. Complete a CLH requisition with requested patient information, ICD-10 diagnosis code(s), and clearly write: **"COVID-19 Test CLH"**. **Indicate specimen source on requisition.**
5. Insert the COVID-19 specimen in its **OWN BIOHAZARD BAG**, do not include other specimens in this bag.
6. Insert the completed CLH requisition in the **outside** pocket of the biohazard bag along with this colored instruction banner. **This banner will clearly indicate to all that this is a COVID-19 specimen for testing at CLH.**
7. Immediately refrigerate after collection. Not doing so will impact specimen quality.
8. Please have the specimen delivered to the lab as soon as possible.



FAQs for COVID-19 Testing

1. Do I need to order the Flu or Respiratory Viral Panel test before ordering COVID-19?

It is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State Department of Health (DOH) to initially test Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for the Flu and/or Respiratory Viral Panel and upon negative result, reflex to COVID-19.

2. Will CLH accept my order for a COVID-19 only test?

Yes, we will accept a COVID-19 test only order.

3. How do I place an order?

Please request a COVID-19 Test Collection Kit from your CLH Supply Department. Complete your standard CLH requisition or place your order via your electronic ordering system and clearly write "COVID-19 Test CLH" on the order. The kit will contain one NP swab, viral transport media, a banner and a biohazard bag. Instructions are provided in the kit on how to submit your patient specimen.

4. Can I submit only one swab and viral transport media for both Flu/Respiratory Viral Panel and COVID-19 testing?

You must submit two separate specimens/media if ordering a Flu/Respiratory Viral Panel and COVID-19 test.

- a. *One swab in viral transport media for Flu and/or Respiratory Viral Panel testing;*
- and**
- b. *A second swab in viral transport media for COVID-19 testing. COVID-19 specimens must be refrigerated immediately upon collection and then frozen for transportation. This process will help to ensure specimen integrity.*

5. I would like to order a Flu or Respiratory Viral Panel with reflex to COVID-19, how do I submit a specimen for this?

Please follow the procedures listed under question #4 for submitting two specimens. Write on the requisition for COVID-19 testing, "HOLD for COVID-19". Write on the requisition for the Flu or Respiratory Panel "Reflex to COVID-19 if Negative". We recommend sending a requisition with each biohazard bag.

6. Do I need to coordinate testing with CLH as I do with the DOH and submit the DOH and CDC forms?

No, you will only need to submit your requisition/order indicating the test you are ordering. The COVID-19 Collection Kit will also include a banner that should be returned in the packet.

7. How will I receive results?

Results will be received as you receive them now, either electronically or via paper results. Interfaced results may be dependent upon your hospital information system or EMR set up. Please contact your CLH Representative if you have any questions.

8. How will my patients receive their results?

Patients can sign up for the CLH Patient Portal to receive results securely online. Questions can be directed to CLH Client Services or your CLH Representative.

9. Will CLH communicate all results to the State of Hawaii Department of Health?

CLH will provide all positive results to the DOH.

10. What is the turn-around time for COVID-19?

Currently, the test result for COVID-19 may take up to 3 days after receipt of specimen in the laboratory. CLH is actively working on the validation of COVID-19 testing and instrumentation in Hawaii. We expect to decrease the turn-around time once testing is available locally at CLH.