Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 21

Updated Recommendations on Antigen Testing

New School Guidance

Key Points and Recommendations:

- NH DPHS continues to recommend that schools and businesses exclude persons with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19, even mild symptoms (e.g., rhinorrhea, nasal congestion, etc.). If these individuals are not tested for COVID-19 (using a PCR- or antigen-based test), then they should be excluded for at least 10 days from the onset of their symptoms following guidance for discontinuation of isolation.

- Multiple antigen-based tests are available for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19 under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). See the table below for a summary of the different tests and characteristics, including links to manufacturer instructions.
  - We continue to recommend that antigen testing be used only in symptomatic individuals and advise against their use for screening or testing asymptomatic persons.
  - Use of antigen testing should ideally occur within 5 days of symptom onset, even though newer platforms (LumiraDX and BinaxNOW) allow for testing longer after symptom onset.

- To facilitate rapid testing for symptomatic persons, NH Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) recommends that providers and ambulatory practices consider implementing point-of-care testing for their patients, as previously recommended.

- Most point-of-care tests (e.g., for COVID-19, Strep, influenza, etc.) are limited by decreased sensitivity. Providers should use clinical judgement when deciding whether a negative result on a point-of-care test (either an antigen- or molecular-based test [e.g., Abbott ID NOW]) requires confirmation with a laboratory-based molecular (RT-PCR) test.
  - When testing is conducted early after symptom onset and suspicion is low for COVID-19 (e.g., community transmission is low, patient does not have an identified exposure risk for COVID-19, etc.), confirmation of a negative result may not be necessary.
  - Consider confirming any negative result in a symptomatic patient with a high suspicion for COVID-19 (based on risk factors, symptoms, etc.).

- Most point-of-care tests are not automatically reported to NH DPHS. Therefore, providers must report all positive test results from point-of-care testing (including PCR- and antigen-based tests) by submitting a completed COVID-19 Case Report Form.

School Guidance:

- NH DPHS has released new guidance for schools (grades K-12) defining levels of community transmission and school impact to guide when schools should consider transitioning between different instructional models (in-person vs. hybrid vs. remote).

- To facilitate tracking community transmission and school impact, a new data analytics dashboard has been created and will be updated daily (see “Schools” tab): https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/overview.htm.
Communication and Partner Engagement:

- **Webinar for long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and congregate living settings** every **Wednesday** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm**:
  - Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/j/511075725](https://zoom.us/j/511075725)
  - Call-in phone number: (929) 205-6099
  - Meeting ID: 511 075 725

- **Webinar for healthcare providers and local partners** every **Thursday** from **12:00 – 1:00 pm**:
  - Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/s/94841259025](https://zoom.us/s/94841259025)
  - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  - Meeting ID: 948 4125 9025
  - Password: 003270

- **UPDATE**: **Webinar for school partners** every **Thursday** from **3:30 – 4:30 pm**:
  - Zoom link: [https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081](https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081)
  - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
  - Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081
  - Passcode: 197445

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**Table**: Comparison of Antigen Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2 Which Have Received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Specimen Types</th>
<th>Maximum Time Frame to Test After Symptom Onset</th>
<th>Positive Agreement (compared to RT-PCR)</th>
<th>Negative Agreement (compared to RT-PCR)</th>
<th>Manufacturer Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card*</td>
<td>Abbott Diagnostics Scarborough, Inc.</td>
<td>Nasal Swab</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>97.1%</td>
<td>98.5%</td>
<td><a href="#">Package Insert</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LumiraDx SARS-CoV-2 Ag Test</td>
<td>LumiraDx UK Ltd.</td>
<td>Nasal Swab</td>
<td>12 days</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
<td><a href="#">Package Insert</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BD Veritor System for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2</td>
<td>Becton, Dickinson (BD) and Company</td>
<td>Nasal Swab</td>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td><a href="#">Package Insert</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofia SARS Antigen FIA</td>
<td>Quidel Corporation</td>
<td>NP or Nasal Swab</td>
<td>5 days</td>
<td>96.7%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td><a href="#">Package Insert</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NP: nasopharyngeal; RT-PCR: reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction*

*Note: BinaxNOW does not require a separate instrument for testing*
For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov.

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None