THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network Health.Alert@nh.gov September 2, 2020 Time 0900 (9:00 AM EDT) NH-HAN 20200902



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 <u>exclude persons with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19</u>, 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 <u>antigen-based tests</u> 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 <u>COVID-19 Case Report Form</u>.

School Guidance:

- NH DPHS has released <u>new guidance</u> 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
 Call-in phone number: (929) 205-6099

o 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
 Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656

o Meeting ID: 948 4125 9025

o Password: 003270

• UPDATE: Webinar for school partners every Thursday from 3:30 – 4:30 pm:

o Zoom link: https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081

o Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081

o Passcode: 197445

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

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

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.

Status: Actual
Message Type: Update
Severity: Moderate
Sensitivity: Not Sensitive

Message Identifier: NH-HAN 20200902 COVID-19, Update 21

Delivery Time: 12 hours Acknowledgement: No

Distribution Method: Email, Fax

Distributed to: Physicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control

Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospitals, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, EMS, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Networks, DHHS

Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, Zoonotic Alert Team, Health Officers, Deputy Health Officers, MRC, NH Schools, EWIDS, Dialysis & Transplant Clinics, STD Clinics, Immunization Practices, Travel Centers, Influenza Sentinels, Urgent Care

Immunization Practices, Travel Centers, Influenza Sentinels, Urgent Care Centers, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Walk-in Clinics, Poison Center, Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Health Departments, Internal Medicine, Occupational Health, Gastroenterology, Schools and Daycare Providers, Regional Public Health Networks, Environmental Services, Family Planning Programs,

Department of Corrections, Home Care Providers, Local and State Partners, Area

Agencies

From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist

Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health

Services

Attachments: None