



# Technical Bulletin

## Molecular Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) at DLS Central Facility – Update #1

**TO:** Medical Staff and Clients

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**SUBJECT:** Molecular test for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) available on-island expanded significantly

Access to commercial test kits on our high-throughput platform has significantly increased our capacity for performing real-time reverse transcriptase PCR for COVID-19. The test was the first to be reviewed and approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and has been available since March 24, 2020.

**This on-island testing capacity is now 550/day. Priority is still given to critically ill inpatients**, but we've not needed to send any specimens to our mainland reference laboratory for a week. **All orders have transitioned to in-house order code 7179**, and the laboratory will change the code in the unlikely event that it must be sent off-island.

Hospital-based rapid tests (e.g., Cepheid GeneXpert) has a different code, and must be approved by hospital leadership due to unstable re-supply.

Test:	SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
DLS Order code:	7179
Specimen:	NP, OP, Nasal swab in UTM or sterile buffered saline; eSwab
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated for 48 HOURS <b>or Frozen at -70°F</b>
Turnaround time:	1-2 days (may be impacted due to high volume) Not available STAT

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) continues to issue guidelines regarding SARS-CoV-2, including clinical considerations before testing (<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/news-updates/>). DLS encourages providers to follow these guidelines, **and those of their respective institutions**.

It is important to remember that even if a patient is suspected to have SARS-CoV-2, testing for other common organisms such as influenza remains an integral part of the workup process.

### DOH Contact Information:

**Oahu (Disease Reporting Line) (808) 586-4586, After hours on Oahu (808) 600-3625**

**Hilo 933-0912, Kauai 984-8213, Kona 322-4877, Maui 984-8213, After hours on neighbor islands (800) 360-2575**

Please refer any questions to Dr. Amy Woron, Manager - DLS Microbiology Lab at 441-5436, or DLS Client Services at 589-5101.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> <https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>

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