



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 or Frozen at -70°F
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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