



# Technical Bulletin

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

**TO:** Medical Staff and Clients

**FROM:** Dr. Wesley Kim, MD  
Medical Director, DLS and QMC West

Dr. Amy Woron, PhD  
Manager, DLS Molecular

Dr. A. Christian Whelen, PhD  
VP & Technical Director  
Microbiology & Molecular

Dr. Ana Ortega-Lopez, MD  
Medical Director QMC Punchbowl,  
North Hawaii and Molokai

**DATE:** March 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Molecular test for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) developed by DLS is now available on-island

On March 13, 2020, DLS began performing a real-time reverse transcriptase PCR test developed by DLS using CDC developed materials. Because of limited availability of resources nationwide, testing in general should be restricted to **symptomatic patients only**. Testing should not be used for patients who are asymptomatic (e.g., worried well, post-exposure screen, return to work, etc.) at the present time.

The DLS on-island test is under expedited review by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and is available for clinical purposes. The FDA allows the use of this test while it is under review.

**DLS on-island testing capacity is limited to 40/day. Priority is being given to critically ill in-patients.** We are actively working to increase this capacity. DLS will accession all COVID-19 test requests under **order code 7180**. All orders will then be triaged based on priority and will either be run on-island or sent out to Quest.

Test:	SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
DLS Order code:	7180
Specimen:	Nasopharyngeal swab in UTM (various lid colors based on supplier: green, red, blue)
Transport/Stability:	Refrigerated for 72 HOURS <b>or Frozen at -70°F</b>
Turnaround time:	5 days (may be impacted due to high volume) Not available STAT Clients will be notified of a “Detected” result

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