

## Test Available: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

March 16, 2020

**Effective today, March 16, 2020**, PathGroup will begin to offer testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This test is to be ordered only for individuals who meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) clinical and/or epidemiological criteria for testing. Because this criteria may change as more is learned about the virus, please refer directly to the CDC website for the most up-to-date patient testing criteria:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

*PathGroup respectfully asks that you do not send patients with suspicion of COVID-19 infection to PathGroup Phlebotomists or Patient Service Centers for specimen collection for COVID-19 testing. Healthcare providers should collect nasopharyngeal swab specimens from patients under investigation in accordance with CDC guidance.*

PathGroup Phlebotomists, Patient Service Centers and PathGroup Client Services can provide guidance on how to package and prepare the specimen for transport.

Additional CDC resources for healthcare professionals can be found at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>

<b>CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019</b>	
<b>TEST CODE</b>	<b>COVID19</b> <i>For clients with EHR ordering interfaces who would like to order COVID19 electronically, please contact PathGroup IT at <a href="mailto:help@pathgroup.com">help@pathgroup.com</a> to request the new test code be added to your EHR system.</i>
<b>TEST NAME</b>	SARS-CoV-2, RNA
<b>SPECIMEN COLLECTION</b>	1 Universal Viral Transport Swab: Nasopharyngeal collection (PathSupply Description: BD Universal Swab, Item #13696) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place inoculated swab in supplied red top tube containing viral transport media. Break off swab shaft at score line and close cap <b>tightly</b> with swab <b>remaining in the tube</b>.</li> <li><b>DO NOT POUR OFF MEDIA.</b></li> </ul>
<b>SPECIMEN TRANSPORT</b>	Frozen (-20°C)
<b>SPECIMEN STABILITY</b>	Room temperature: Unacceptable Refrigerated (2-8°C): 72 hours; Frozen thereafter
<b>TURNAROUND TIME</b>	2-3 days (TAT may be impacted by high volume)
<b>COST</b>	CMS has established a HCPCS code for billing and a reimbursement amount of \$51.31 for COVID-19 testing. PathGroup will apply this CMS rate for all payers, patients and clients.

For additional information about COVID-19 testing from PathGroup, please visit the online Directory of Services at <https://pathconnect.pathgroup.com/testmenu/#/searchresults/covid19>.

**For further questions, please contact Client Services  
at 1-888-4PG-LABS (1-888-474-5227).**