



COVID-19 Specimen Submission Guidelines for SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing

Healthcare providers with patients who meet the eligibility criteria should work with their infection preventionists and laboratory personnel to collect specimens. The IDOHL will accept provider requested specimens for sequencing as part of enhanced surveillance if **at least one** of the following criteria is met:

1. Provider identifies a case with a pronounced change in clinical presentation or a markedly more severe presentation
2. Patient has traveled internationally or has had close contact with someone with international travel within the past 21 days prior to illness onset
3. Patient has traveled to, or has had close contact with someone who traveled to California, Nevada, or Arizona within the past 21 days prior to illness onset
4. Patient is a vaccine breakthrough case (i.e., patient tested positive by PCR or antigen at least 14 days after being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 AND has not had a previous positive PCR or antigen test collected within 45 days of the most recent positive test.)
5. Patient has a reinfection of COVID-19 (i.e. testing positive again at least 90 days after first lab-confirmed COVID-19 illness, or anyone testing positive again within 90 days from first illness that reported a recent (within 14 days) exposure to someone with lab-confirmed COVID-19)

IDOH requires all COVID-19 sequencing test requisitions to be submitted through its Laboratory Information Management System (LimsNet).

Unauthorized specimens and specimens not submitted through LimsNet will not be tested.

LimsNet Test Request Submission:

New users

- To sign up for LimsNet, call the LIMS Help Desk 317-921-5506, or email us at LimsAppSupport@isdh.in.gov
- Please provide the following information:
 - Name of your facility.
 - Names and email addresses of all individuals that need LimsNet access at your facility.
 - Please include in the email body or subject line that you are requesting “Virology Test Submission” access.

Existing users

<http://limsnet.isdh.in.gov/>

When submitting specimens in LimsNet, please select “COVID-19 sequencing” as the test requested. This will require an authorization number (authorization number obtained through the Epidemiology



Resource Center (ERC) COVID-19 Variant Testing Authorizations provider survey), as well as details on the lab tests that have been performed on the specimen. Please be prepared to provide the test that was performed as well as the Ct values.

Specimen Selection:

The specimen must be frozen at $\leq -70^{\circ}\text{C}$. Please submit at 500 μL of specimen volume. If a specimen is going to be submitted for sequencing and PCR results are available, the specimen must have a Ct value below or equal to 28.

Please note, the IDOH Laboratory does not accept saliva specimens at this time.

In LimsNet, submissions must be entered under the virology module with the “COVID-19 sequencing” test selected. These specimens must be authorized prior to submission.

Shipping:

Authorized specimens should be [shipped Category B](#), on dry ice, to the mailing address on the LimsNet cover page.

- Please double check the LimsNet cover page for the proper shipping address when submitting your specimens in LimsNet.
- Ensure that your package shipping label matches the mailing address on the LimsNet cover page you printed for your samples.
- Specimens will not be received after the normal dock receiving hours. Please keep specimens collected after normal dock receiving hours at -70°C or colder and deliver during normal dock receiving hours:

Monday - Friday 8:15 AM - 4:45 PM

Sunday **CLOSED**

Note: FedEx, USPS, and UPS cannot be received over the weekend.

Results for specimens submitted to IDOHL for COVID sequencing will not be reported back to the submitter. Sequencing results are intended for public health purposes only. These results should NOT be used for diagnosis, treatment, or assessment of patient health or management. To view Indiana’s variants of concern (VOC) data, visit <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

Please call 317-921-5500 or email isdh-lab-info@isdh.IN.gov for more information.