

## Indiana Statewide Standing Order to Address the COVID-19 Outbreak

**Purpose:** To ensure that all Hoosiers who meet the criteria for testing for the 2019 novel coronavirus receive such testing.

**Policy:** Standing orders enable any providers properly authorized to perform COVID-19 testing at locations throughout the state of Indiana.

**Eligible Providers:** Any COVID-19 testing site operating in accordance with all State and Federal laws, including all health care licensure regulations.

### Eligible Recipients:

- 1) Individuals who meet the criteria provided in guidance for testing on the Indiana State Department of Health [website](#).

### I. Collection Procedure:

Nasopharyngeal swab (NP) recommended to be done wearing full PPE including N95 mask or PAPR in a single patient room with the door closed or outside.

Use only synthetic fiber swabs with plastic shafts. Do not use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing. Place swabs immediately into sterile tubes containing 2-3 ml of viral transport media. In general CDC is now recommending collecting only the NP swab.

Nasopharyngeal swab: Insert a swab into the nostril parallel to the palate. Hold the swab with fingers placed on the score line, if possible, tilt the head back 70 degrees, supporting the head with your non-dominant hand. Gently insert the swab into the nostril along the septum floor of the nose, extending straight back until the posterior nasopharynx is reached (distance from nostrils to the external opening of the ear). Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions.

Other Clinically Accepted Methods of collection may be used as authorized by ISDH and in the manner approved by ISDH for that particular method.

## **II. Storage**

Store specimens at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.

## **III. Shipping**

Specimens PUI's must be packaged, shipped, and transported according to the current edition of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations. Store specimens at 2-8°C and ship overnight to participating lab on ice pack. If a specimen is frozen at -70°C ship overnight to the participating lab on dry ice. Additional useful and detailed information on packing, shipping, and transporting specimens can be found at Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for Handling and Processing Specimens Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

**Geographic Region:** This standing order is applicable statewide.

**Standing Orders Authorization:** This standing order is issued pursuant to the Governor's Declaration of Public Health Emergency in accordance with Indiana Code §10-14-3-12(a) and § 16-19-3-9, which provides that ISDH, which reports to the governor, may "[d]o what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease."

This standing order is effective April 30, 2020 through December 31, 2020. This replaces the previous standing order for COVID-19 testing signed April 7, 2020.



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State Health Commissioner