



May 19, 2020

To LPHA and Tribal Partners,

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) has been continually working to increase our COVID-19 testing capacity. As part of this effort, we are now offering testing on the Hologic Panther platform which we expect will add 300 tests to our laboratory's daily testing capacity. The testing platform uses NAAT technology and does not require RNA extraction. Our team will perform testing direct from the patient sample submitted. Because this is a high-volume platform, we will prioritize testing on this platform for contact investigations and large group/bulk specimen collections.

Specimen Collection

This platform requires a specific collection kit, the Aptima Multitest kit (orange label).

- OSPHL will supply Local Public Health Authorities and tribal health centers with supply of these collection kits upon request. Please request collection kits using the [OSPHL Stockroom Order Request](#) Form and indicate the kits are for a large collection.
- OSPHL requests that state, local, or tribal jurisdiction request the supplies from our lab, rather than being requested by the facility where specimen collection will occur such as a long-term care facility.

Collection kits will be accompanied by a simplified COVID-19-specific Test Request Form.

- This form would be used in place of the green Virology/Immunology Test Request Form for these events to simplify data collection. The green form could still be used if preferred.
- This test cannot be ordered electronically at this time. Please use paper test request forms until notified that the electronic order option is available.

A photo of the Aptima Multitest collection kit is provided at the end of this message for your reference and planning.

Specimen Transport

This test system permits specimens to be stored at refrigerated or ambient temperatures pending and during transport and must be received at OSPHL within 6 days of specimen collection.

Complete specimen collection, storage, and transport information can be found on the OSPHL Test Menu for this method at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/LABORATORYSERVICES/Pages/zCOVID-19NAAT.aspx>

We are excited to provide this option to respond to priority testing needs in Oregon. Please contact Shane Sevey or Sarah Humphrey King with questions:

- Shane Sevey, Virology/Immunology Section Manager – 503-693-4154 – shane.a.sevey@state.or.us
- Sarah Humphrey King, Client Services Coordinator – 503-693-4124 – sarah.m.humphrey@state.or.us

Sincerely,

John Fontana, PhD, (HCLD) ABB
Director, OSPHL

Shane Sevey
Manager, OSPHL Virology/Immunology

Aptima Multitest Collection Kit

Media and swab are included in the package shown below. A specimen transport bag and COVID-19 Test Request Form will also be provided.

