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Test Kit/ Sample Clarification

13/March/2020

Patients should call their healthcare providers if they have any concerns regarding their health status as they would for any illness. Many patients may be calling your clinic to get tested. You do not need to have test kits to perform sample collection for COVID-19. Although you may not be able to test for COVID-19 at your clinic, you are still able to collect samples for the COVID-19 test.

To collect a specimen for COVID-19 at your clinic, you would use the same swab as you would for a respiratory panel test such as a nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab sample.

Once the sample is collected at your health clinic, you would then ship the specimen to either a commercial lab such as LabCorp, Quest, ARUP, or that you have a contract with, or the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL). Specimens that are being sent to IBL need to be discussed with the Health Department first and should only be high risk patients, such as those returning from a country or area with community spread of the virus or direct contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, paired with having signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath).

All other patients that you feel should be tested at this time would be considered lower risk and should have their samples that your clinic collected sent for testing at the commercial lab you are contracted with.

Please use the following link as a resource for understanding the collection, storage and shipping process of COVID-19 samples.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>.

If you have any questions contact the Southeastern Idaho Public Health at (208)478-6303.