COVID-19 Guidance for physicians and nurses taking COVID-19 specimens from health care workers
As of March 19, 2020
Please ensure that you are using the latest guidance document, available at http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/coronavirus-(novel)

Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services

Provincial testing guidance for COVID-19 now includes an identified strategy to cover health care workers who are symptomatic, are part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak or who have known exposure to a positive case.

The Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services (PLMS) testing strategy includes specimen receipt through to test result distribution, back to the ordering healthcare provider.

Specimen collection at the designated sites for health care physicians and staff is supported by clinical personnel. When collecting specimens, label sample requisitions and swabs with the appropriate information identifying HCW. This will aid prioritization within the testing laboratory.

Health care workers fall into one of two sub-categories:

- individuals in roles critical to direct patient care delivery (HCW1) or
- individuals in roles that are critical to supporting patient care delivery (HCW2).

When collecting specimens, ask each worker which category they are in and indicate this category on the label and requisition. See image below at the end of this message.

All test results will be reported to the ordering provider. In addition, all positive results will be reported to Public Health for follow-up with employees. Ordering providers can also call for results using the Laboratory Test Results Call Centre 1-877-747-2522. Please do not call the testing laboratory directly, as the staff is focussed on providing timely testing.

PLMS continues to work with provincial laboratory medical and operational leaders to identify and implement improved workflows in the laboratory information system and reporting systems to support the prioritizing and reporting of HCW testing and results.

For the latest information for health care providers, visit this site often: www.bccdc.ca/covid19care
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Note: There is more than one type of swab being utilized for COVID-19 testing, so the colour of your swabs may not match the above example.