



**EL DORADO COUNTY**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY** *Public Health Division*

---

**Communicable Disease Unit**

Date: March 18, 2020

To: All Providers, Primary Care Providers, ER Physicians and Urgent Care Clinics

Re: Updated Guidance on Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

**Local Summary:**

- El Dorado County has no confirmed cases of novel coronavirus.
- El Dorado County Public Health has an informational webpage <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/hhsa/Pages/EDCCOVID-19.aspx>

Thank you for remaining flexible as guidance changes. El Dorado County Public Health Communicable Disease would like to emphasize the following:

- Notification of the decision to test a patient for COVID-19 to El Dorado County Communicable Disease IS REQUIRED if the patient:
  - was transported to your facility via emergency medical services (EMS)
- DO NOT NOTIFY El Dorado County Communicable Disease of the decision to test patients that have mild to moderate illness (unless the patient was transported to your facility via EMS). Please refer to testing prioritization.
- **ENSURE COMPLETE CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED** for all patients being tested for COVID-19 including physical address, telephone number and date of birth.
- NOTIFY Communicable Disease immediately via phone if a patient tests positive for COVID-19.



**EL DORADO COUNTY**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY** *Public Health Division*

---

**Communicable Disease Unit**

- DO NOT refer patients to the El Dorado County Public Health Clinic. The Public Health Clinic is not collecting and testing specimens for COVID-19.
- Prioritize COVID-19 testing based on the following criteria:
  - hospitalized patients or those who present with acute severe illness characteristic with clinical presentation of COVID-19
  - symptomatic older adults (age  $\geq$  65 years) and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state
- Include rapid influenza diagnostic testing for influenza A/B and consider customized viral panel for RSV, adenovirus or others dependent on your assessment and differential considerations
- We strongly recommend using alternative means of in person assessment when appropriate such as telehealth technology
- Screen all appointments for respiratory symptoms and instruct those with potential influenza or COVID-19 infection to notify staff prior to arrival so that proper preparation of patient and staff can be accomplished before additional exposure takes place i.e., distancing, separate waiting area, instruction on proper respiratory hygiene while waiting etc.

**Providers following these guidelines may contact El Dorado County Communicable Disease as appropriate.**

- Business Hours (8 am–5 pm): (530) 621-6320 for West Slope and (530) 573-3154 for South Lake Tahoe
- Afterhours/weekends: (800) 901-5789