

## What do I do if I suspect a patient is infected with SARS CoV-2?

### First, protect yourself.

Wear PPE to examine the patient. Wash your hands thoroughly after patient care and follow any infection control guidelines for your institution. All testing for COVID-19 should be done wearing PPE: face shield or goggles, respirator or face mask, gown, and gloves. The patient should wear a face mask.

### Reporting the suspected COVID-19 case:

**COVID-19 is a reportable disease** to the KDHE. A *Kansas Reportable Disease Form* should be completed and faxed to KDHE or your local health department when you suspect a patient has Covid-19. (Do not wait for positive laboratory results to report to KDHE.) This form is available at [https://www.kdheks.gov/epi/download/Kansas\\_Reportable\\_Disease\\_Form.pdf](https://www.kdheks.gov/epi/download/Kansas_Reportable_Disease_Form.pdf). KDHE's fax number is 877-427-7318. Calling KDHE is not necessary. KDHE hopes to activate an online portal for disease reporting soon.

If you are testing through KDHE and fax KDHE the testing form (see below), you do NOT need to fax a reportable disease form. If you are testing outside of KDHE, you DO need to fax KDHE a reportable disease form.

### Determining where to test the patient:

- Information on which patients can be tested through the KDHE Laboratory (KHEL) can be found at [https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19\\_Resource\\_Center.htm](https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19_Resource_Center.htm). Check the KDHE website frequently, as their testing capacity may increase or decrease as the situation changes.
- If testing at KHEL, you must complete the KDHE **COVID-19 Testing Approval Form**. The form should be faxed to KDHE at 877-427-7318, and a copy of the form should be sent alongside the patient's specimen. The form is available at [https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/toolkit/COVID-19\\_Testing\\_Approval\\_Form-Self\\_Submit.pdf](https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/toolkit/COVID-19_Testing_Approval_Form-Self_Submit.pdf) and includes instructions on specimen collection and shipping.
- If you are uncertain if a patient meets KDHE's criteria for testing, you may **call the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline** at 877-427-7317 and choose extension 5 for "other reportable, communicable disease or urgent public health issue" to speak with an Epidemiology call operator. KDHE has epidemiology experts on staff to help decide about complex cases. You can also email KDHE epidemiology at [kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.epihotline@ks.gov).
- **Other options for testing:** If your patient does not meet criteria for testing at KDHE, their specimen may be tested at a private lab. Some reference labs that offer COVID-19 testing include: Quest Diagnostics (test code 39433), LabCorp (test code 139900), Mayo Clinic Laboratories (test code ZW282), and Viracor (test code 8398). The Kansas Reportable Disease Form still needs to be faxed to either your local health department or KDHE at 877-427-7318. Results from these reference labs must be faxed to your local health department or KDHE.

## Collecting and shipping the specimen:

The specimen collection process for COVID-19 testing can be viewed in the following video (<https://vimeo.com/400033436>), which can be found at [https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19\\_Resource\\_Center.htm](https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19_Resource_Center.htm). Once the specimen has been collected, it should be promptly shipped to the laboratory performing the testing. If testing through KHEL, review the Specimen Packaging and Shipping Instructions on the last page of the KDHE **COVID-19 Testing Approval Form** ([https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/toolkit/COVID-19\\_Testing\\_Approval\\_Form-Self\\_Submit.pdf](https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/toolkit/COVID-19_Testing_Approval_Form-Self_Submit.pdf)).

## Wait for results:

**Receiving results:** KDHE and KHEL are unable to disclose results directly to patients. KDHE calls local health departments and submitting facilities with positive results; the local health department contacts the submitting facility as well to follow up. Negative results are faxed or securely emailed without a call.

### *Additional sources of information on COVID-19 in Kansas from KDHE:*

- For general questions on COVID-19, call the **KDHE Covid-19 Info number** which is 866-534-3463 (866-KDHEINF) which is available M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sun 1-5 p.m. Their email is: [COVID-19@ks.gov](mailto:COVID-19@ks.gov). Any healthcare provider needing to speak with someone about a patient should call the **KDHE Epidemiology Hotline at 877-427-7317**.
- Go to [www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov) and click on the **COVID-19 Resource Center**. There is a lot of information there. Click on the “Map of COVID-19” in the center blue box to get a map and list of cases by county as well as lots of other epidemiological data such as: total cases, hospitalizations, statewide deaths, negative tests, cases by age and sex and graphs. This data is updated daily. More KDHE Covid-19 guidance can be found in a link at the bottom of the page: [https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19\\_Resource\\_Center.htm](https://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19_Resource_Center.htm).
- KDHE operates an updated [facebook](#) account with posted press conferences and some endearing videos of kids asking Secretary Norman questions about COVID-19.
- Press conferences may also be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/6935373>.