

TO: Vermont Health Care Providers and Health Care Facilities – in Southern Vermont

FROM: Mark Levine, MD, Commissioner

Update on COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing for Southern Vermont

This Health Advisory supplements the following Health Advisories:

March 27, 2020: [Update on COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing in Vermont](#)

BACKGROUND

On March 27, the Vermont Department of Health provided updated guidance to health care providers to allow more latitude when ordering COVID-19 testing to capitalize on our opportunity to flatten the curve of COVID-19 infections in Vermont.

All hospitals throughout the state are ramping up their ability to collect COVID-19 specimens based on newly increased laboratory capacity and availability of supplies. In addition, the Vermont Department of Health, in collaboration with the Vermont National Guard, is setting up an additional COVID-19 testing site at Landmark College in Putney, Vermont. This site will provide additional testing capacity to meet the anticipated increase in referrals from health care providers.

The Landmark College testing site will begin to see referred patients on Sunday, March 29, and will operate from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. throughout the week. The hours, and for how many days the site is open, will depend on the availability of testing supplies.

The Landmark College site is the latest addition to the temporary pop-up, drive-through and other facilities being established to help meet the anticipated increase in testing referrals. Vermont's health care providers will be continually informed of these sites as they become available.

REQUEST

For the Landmark College testing site, providers are asked to utilize a process for ordering COVID-19 testing that is different from their usual process. Providers will be required to **send patient name, date of birth and the name of the health care provider to this secure email address: ng.ncr.ngb-arng.list.cst-015-analytical-medical@mail.mil**. Site staff will complete a lab requisition form when the patient presents for testing. The requisition form will be included with the patient's specimen when it is sent to the lab for processing.

Hospitals collecting specimens for diagnostic testing should reach out to the practices in their

hospital service area to inform them of the procedures for referring patients for specimen collection.

Health care providers should refer patients, when possible, to centralized centers rather than having each practice attempt to collect their own specimens to preserve personal protective equipment (PPE). Exceptions to this will be made on a case-by-case basis based on factors including extreme stress on patients and families with use of drive through test centers.

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or vthan@vermont.gov.

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.