



# Department of Public Health LRN Laboratory

## **\*\*Health Advisory Update\*\***

02-28-2020

**MAYOR**  
Dee Margo

Please be advised the criteria to guide evaluation for PUI for COVID-19 has changed.

**CITY COUNCIL**

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Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever <b>or</b> signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)	<b>AND</b>	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset
Fever <b>and</b> signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization	<b>AND</b>	A history of travel from affected geographic areas ( <b>China, Iran, Italy, Japan, South Korea</b> ) within 14 days of symptom onset.
Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization <b>AND</b> without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)	<b>AND</b>	No source of exposure has been identified.

Health care providers **MUST** contact **TX DSHS Region 9/10 Epidemiology at 888-847-6892 IMMEDIATELY** to notify them of patients that fit the above criteria. DPH staff will determine if the patient meets the criteria for a patient under investigation (PUI) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**CDC has advised that all samples must be sent directly to local health departments, therefore health care providers will be responsible for the transport of specimens to the El Paso Department of Public Health Laboratory at 4505 Alberta Ave 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor El Paso, TX 79905. For more information please call 915-212-0438. We currently operate Monday-Friday 0700-1800. If after hours or weekends, please call 888-847-6892.**

**CITY MANAGER**  
Tommy Gonzalez

**Store all specimens (1 upper respiratory, 1 lower respiratory, and 1 serum) at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection, or at -70°C if held longer than 72 hours after collection. Each specimen must have its own submission form.**

For more information please visit:

**[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html)**

**Categories of urgency levels**

**\*\*\*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

**Robert Resendes – Public Health Director**

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