



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

Karen Larsen, LMFT
Director

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer

MAILING ADDRESS
137 N. Cottonwood Street • Woodland, CA 95695
www.yolocounty.org

HEALTH ADVISORY

Date: November 12, 2020
To: All Healthcare Providers
From: Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH, Health Officer
Subject: COVID-19 Clinical Diagnoses

SUMMARY

Providers are strongly discouraged from making a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19 without obtaining laboratory confirmation.

BACKGROUND

Experts expect multiple respiratory viruses to circulate this fall and winter, including cold, flu, and SARS-CoV-2. The symptoms of cold, flu, and COVID-19 infections can overlap and make it difficult to distinguish between these infections. Laboratory testing therefore plays a critical role in distinguishing between respiratory infections. Distinguishing between these infections is important because the public health implications of missed COVID-19 cases are significant. In addition, only laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 are included in calculations of case rate and testing positivity rate, and these rates inform policy decisions about COVID-19 control measures.

TESTING GUIDANCE

Laboratory testing is the preferred method for diagnosis of COVID-19. Providers are encouraged to consider the possibility of co-infection when ordering laboratory testing for respiratory disease. A recent [case of co-infection](#) with influenza and SARS-CoV-2 in neighboring Solano County clearly illustrates the importance of testing for multiple respiratory viruses simultaneously. During this flu season (October-May), Yolo County Public Health recommends ordering the following tests for patients with signs and/or symptoms of respiratory infection:

- Rapid influenza
- Respiratory viral panel
- SARS-CoV-2 molecular (PCR/NAAT)

Davis

600 A Street
Davis, CA 95616
Mental Health (530) 757-5530

West Sacramento

500 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Service Center (916) 375-6200
Mental Health (916) 375-6350
Public Health (916) 375-6380

Winters

111 East Grant Avenue
Winters, CA 95694
Service Center (530) 406-4444

Woodland

25 & 137 N. Cottonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695
Service Center (530) 661-2750
Mental Health (530) 666-8630
Public Health (530) 666-8645

MAKING A CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF COVID-19

In rare cases where laboratory confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 infection is not possible, providers may make a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19. A clinical diagnosis of COVID-19 is made when the following conditions have been met:

1. COVID-19 test is (falsely) negative or not completed
2. All other alternative diagnoses have been ruled out by testing. This includes:
 - Respiratory viral panel and
 - Rapid influenza

AND

- A. At least two (2) of the following symptoms:
 - Fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- B. Any one of the following symptoms:
 - Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder; OR
- C. Severe respiratory illness with at least one of the following:
 - Clinical or radiographic evidence of pneumonia (often with ground glass opacities)
 - Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
 - Have no other reasonable etiology explaining symptoms

REPORTING CLINICAL DIAGNOSES

If a provider makes a clinical diagnosis of COVID-19, the provider **must** report the suspected case to Yolo County Public Health. The report can be made using the [COVID-19 CMR](#) or through the CalREDIE Provider Portal. Providers should submit clinical notes and all lab results relevant to the COVID-19 workup. If these are not provided, Yolo County Public Health will contact the reporting provider to request these. Under the "Occupation Field," provider should note both the occupation and worksite name. If the case is part of a school community, identify whether student or staff (include job title) and school name.

COVID-19 TESTING

There is currently no shortage of COVID-19 testing capacity in Yolo County. If your facility cannot perform COVID-19 testing, refer to the County testing website for current public testing sites: <https://www.yolocounty.org/health-human-services/adults/communicable-disease-investigation-and-control/novel-coronavirus-2019/coronavirus-testing/>. An updated testing schedule will be sent by CAHAN every month. The November testing schedule is linked below in English and Spanish and may be printed and provided to patients.

- o [Testing Schedule November](#)
- o [Testing Schedule October \(Spanish\)](#)

If your facility is experiencing a shortage of testing supplies, contact the MHOAC at 530-321-3620.

ISOLATION OF CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED CASES OF COVID-19

Providers **must** educate all patients receiving a diagnosis of COVID-19 (clinical or laboratory confirmed) about the need to isolate. Provide each case with a copy of Yolo County's COVID-19 [Isolation Orders](#) along with instructions for [isolation of case](#) and [quarantine of their close contacts](#).*

REQUESTING A CLINICAL CONSULT

To request a clinical consult, call the Yolo County COVID-19 Provider Line at (530) 666-8614. For urgent clinical or infection control matters, contact the MHOAC at (530) 321-3620.

*A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a person known to have COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes (cumulative over a 24-hour period) during their infectious period, or who came into direct contact with the infected person's secretions.

RESOURCES

September 18, 2020 CDC Guidance Update recommending testing for all close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/contact-tracing.html>

Solano County Confirmed First Case of Flu and COVID-19 Co-Infection

<https://www.solanocounty.com/news/displaynews.asp?NewsID=2347&TargetID=1>

Yolo County COVID-19 CMR <https://www.yolocounty.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=62737>

Yolo County Order of Isolation <https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=65256>

Yolo County Order of Quarantine <https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=65268>

November Testing Schedule (English) <https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=67096>

November Testing Schedule (Spanish) <https://www.yolocounty.org/home/showdocument?id=67076>