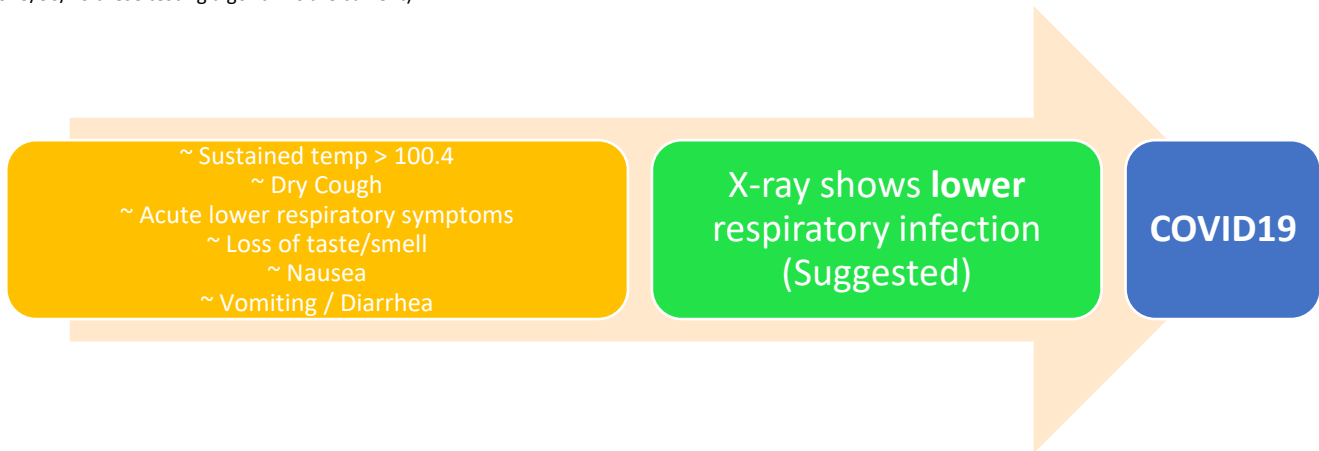




To: Facilities Serviced by HHL and HHL Employees  
From: Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc.  
Date: March 30, 2020  
RE: COVID19 Recommendations and Available Testing \*UPDATE\*

Heartland Health Laboratories, Inc. is committed to continuing to provide excellent laboratory services during the novel Coronavirus-19 pandemic (COVID19). This is a fluid situation, changes in procedures and processes are happening frequently. Please be patient with our laboratory staff during these challenging times.

Each facility should follow their protocols and Standard Operating Procedures regarding COVID19. Currently Influenza/RSV by PCR testing reagents are on a national backorder and are being shipped in limited quantities. HHL will bypass the Influenza/RSV part of the testing algorithm and order COVID19 testing on symptomatic patients, which would include some of the symptoms listed below. (As of 3/30/20 these testing algorithms are current)



Additionally, due to exceptionally high demand and limited testing capability, COVID19 testing turnaround time is exceeding 10 days. COVID19 testing is done at LabCorp or Quest, the turnaround time is beyond our control.

COVID19 testing protocol:

- 1. Notify HHL if you have a patient who is presenting COVID19 symptoms as per Federal and CDC regulations for infection control (see links below).**  
\*Important\* If your patient is symptomatic all specimen(s) and samples should be collected by your dedicated facility staff caring for the patient
- 2. Patients must meet the CDC requirements for COVID19 testing listed above**
  - a. The dedicated facility staff caring for the patient will collect and label all specimens
  - b. HHL phlebotomists will not be collecting specimens for COVID19 testing and should not be drawing blood for PUI
  - c. This is an effort to minimize the exposure of HHL staff, other residents, and reduce the amount of PPE used
- 3. Turnaround times**
  - a. HHL will make every attempt to pick up COVID19 samples same day
  - b. COVID19 testing is NOT available STAT
  - c. COVID19 testing has a 10-12 day turnaround

Some helpful links are listed below.

42 CFR Subpart B – Requirements for Long Term Care Facilities  
[https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title42/42cfr483\\_main\\_02.tpl](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title42/42cfr483_main_02.tpl)

CMS Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicareprovider-enrollment-and-certificationsurvey/certificationgeninfopolicy-and/gso-20-14-nh.pdf>

Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease (2019) COVID19  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>