

# COVID-19 Sentinel Surveillance

## Monitoring the virus with testing



In addition to contact tracing and the testing of close contacts who develop COVID-like symptoms, DOH uses sentinel surveillance to analyze disease trends and distribution in our community. Based on best epidemiological practices, sentinel surveillance efficiently uses resources to collect and study test results across the state. Rather than mass testing, DOH partners with outpatient healthcare providers and private laboratories to prevent the spread of the virus.

### Whose respiratory specimens are tested for COVID-19?

CDC and DOH guidelines determine which samples are tested under the sentinel surveillance program. These criteria include:

- No travel history outside of the state of Hawai'i
- No severe respiratory disease
- No hospitalization
- Demonstrates new mild to moderate respiratory symptoms: cough *or* shortness of breath

For weekly results, visit  
[www.HawaiiCOVID19.com](http://www.HawaiiCOVID19.com)

### How does it work?

The DOH relies on the participation of outpatient healthcare providers and partnership with private laboratories.



Patients visit their healthcare providers when they feel ill.



If the patient exhibits respiratory symptoms, the healthcare provider collects a respiratory specimen.



The specimen is sent to a private laboratory or the State Laboratories Division.



The laboratory tests the respiratory specimen for COVID-19.



Data is provided to DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division.



If a specimen tests positive for COVID-19, DOH conducts contact tracing to prevent the spread of the virus and identifies any trends in community spread.