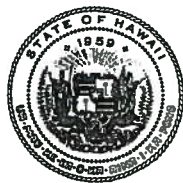


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE LABORATORIES DIVISION (SLD)
2725 WAIMANO HOME ROAD
PEARL CITY, HAWAII 96782-1496

In reply, please refer to:
File: SLDAdmin

March 3, 2020

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing for detection of novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2
at the State Laboratories Division (SLD)

Dear Hawaii Health Professionals,

On February 28, 2020, the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH), State Laboratories Division (SLD) began testing for SARS-CoV-2, using a real time, reverse transcriptase PCR assay developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assay has been cleared for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

If testing is desired, submitters **must** consult with the Disease Investigation Branch (DIB) (<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019/>) before submitting specimens to SLD. Consultation with DIB ensures that new cases are identified in a timely manner, appropriate testing is requested and it also reduces unnecessary testing of specimens at SLD. Prior approval by the DIB is a requirement of the EUA.

The appropriate specimen types are nasopharyngeal swab and oropharyngeal swab, held in viral transport medium. Please keep the specimens cold, package properly, and transport promptly to SLD for testing, Monday through Friday, 7:45am-4:30pm. If there is a delay in submission beyond seventy-two (72) hours after collection, store specimens at -70 °C. The intended turnaround time is one working day, again Monday through Friday.

For laboratory questions concerning this memorandum, please call me at (808) 453-6650 or email me at edward.desmond@doh.hawaii.gov

We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward P. Desmond in black ink.

Edward P. Desmond, Ph.D., D (ABMM)
State Laboratories Administrator

Cc: Chief, Disease Outbreak Control Division
Chief, Medical Microbiology Branch
Chief, Laboratory Preparedness and Response Branch
Deputy Director for Environmental Health
District Health Offices