

Dear SCCIPA Provider,

The following communication is meant to assist you in evaluation, diagnosis and management of the COVID-19 virus. Most of the information written below is taken directly from the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. The CDC website is an established source for up to date information, as news evolves rapidly. For instance, the COVID-19 Situation Summary link is updated regularly at noon EST Mondays through Fridays.

Numbers vary depending on the source, but on March 11th the New York Times reports at least 1,026 people testing positive for coronavirus in the U.S., and at least 31 have died. The San Jose Mercury News reported on March 10th that two more people have tested positive for COVID-19 in Santa Clara County, raising the total of confirmed cases to 45. The County has reported one death from the virus. You may have also heard that the County has banned all gatherings greater than 1000 people; more is available here:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/phd/DiseaseInformation/novel-coronavirus/Pages/order-cancellation-mass-gatherings.aspx>

Importantly, the CDC also has updated information for healthcare professionals. We encourage you to check here regularly for the latest advice: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>. **In brief, it is recommended that when assessing suspect persons with or without symptoms, every effort should be made to interview the Persons Under Investigation (PUI) by telephone, text, or video.** Additionally, taken directly from the CDC website:

Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing). Clinicians are strongly encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness, including infections such as influenza.

Epidemiologic factors that may help guide decisions on whether to test include: any persons, including healthcare workers, who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or a history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days of symptom onset.

LabCorp and Quest have test kits available, but lab personnel cannot collect specimens. Tests must be ordered, and specimens collected, by a physician or other authorized healthcare provider. Further information related to lab testing can be found here: <https://www.labcorp.com/information-labcorp-about-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>.

We have spoken directly with clinicians at the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. The County is prioritizing testing for hospitalized patients and those with severe respiratory issues, the elderly and immunocompromised who are symptomatic, and symptomatic health care workers. Otherwise, if sending a suspect case to Urgent Care or the ED, please notify the facility prior to the patient's arrival.* For further questions, the direct Provider Intake line is (408) 885-4215, then press 3. For providers who become aware of a positive test, please notify the department by email at: coronavirus@phd.sccgov.org.

Currently, we believe your best sources for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19 are the CDC, local, state and federal public health officials, local hospital updates, and our community infectious disease physicians. PPMSI and SCCIPA is committed to passing along meaningful updates as appropriate, in order to best serve and support our dedicated providers.

Sincerely,



J. Kersten Kraft M.D
President, SCCIPA



Carvel B. Tefft M.D
VP Medical Mgmt

***Facility Contact Numbers for COVID-19 Suspects**

El Camino Mountain View:	650-940-7055
El Camino Los Gatos:	408-866-4040
Good Samaritan:	408-559-2552
O'Connor:	408-947-3999
Regional Medical Center of San Jose:	408-729-2841
St. Louise:	408-848-8680