



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

### **Background**

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 is essential for identifying individuals who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 testing ensures infected individuals can be isolated and receive appropriate care and enables strategies to prevent spread of COVID-19 across the community.

In Marin County, significant strides have been made recently in reducing COVID-19 transmission, enabling new conversations about further reopening our economy and schools. Widespread and timely access to COVID-19 testing is necessary for a safer societal reopening. Integrating COVID-19 testing fully into the clinical setting and expanding access to testing is critical.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Health care facilities, health plans, insurers, and health care providers must follow the Marin County Health Officer Order to provide access to SARS-CoV-2 testing in accordance to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 testing guidance, and the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) classification of COVID-19 testing as a medically necessary basic health care service for symptomatic individuals and essential workers.
2. Health care facilities, providers, health plans and insurers should partner with laboratories to ensure access to COVID-19 testing. The California COVID-19 Testing Task Force (TTF) publishes a list of laboratories that provide COVID-19 testing for a variety of sectors.
3. While building testing capacity, health care providers in Marin County may refer patients (Marin County residents only) who meet CDPH criteria for Tier 1 or Tier 2 Testing Priorities to Marin County Public Health for testing.
4. Health care providers can refer patients who meet Tier 3 or Tier 4 Testing Priorities to alternate testing sites.

### **References**

California COVID-19 Testing Task Force. <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/>

Marin Health and Human Services (HHS). COVID-19 Testing Information. <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/covid-19-testing-information>