

Health Update:

Update: COVID-19 Testing Expansion and Serology Reporting

April 30, 2020

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.health.mo.gov>.

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using four types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: RANDALL W. WILLIAMS, MD, FACOG
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SUBJECT: CORRECTED EDITION: Update- COVID-19 Testing Expansion and Serology Reporting

The Department of Health and Senior Services is issuing this health update notification to Missouri clinicians and physicians relating to expanded COVID-19 testing availability within the state. **Diagnostic PCR and serological COVID-19 testing is encouraged for asymptomatic persons when deemed appropriate clinically or for surveillance.**

COVID-19 PCR testing

As availability of diagnostic PCR testing and rapid testing methodologies continue to increase through the private marketplace, DHSS is advising clinicians to consider a wider scope of testing utilization for Missouri citizens as part of Governor Parson's [Show Me Strong Recovery Plan](#).

As a reminder, last week DHSS expanded testing approval criteria for COVID-19 PCR tests conducted at the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory. A quick reference of the current criteria can be found at this link:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus-lpha/pdf/mo-pui-guidance.pdf>

COVID-19 serological testing and reporting

Serological and diagnostic PCR results are reportable to DHSS within 24 hours in order to allow timely public health investigation. Providers and laboratories should report both test types to DHSS as was previously announced. Links to reporting guidance Health Updates are provided here for ease of access:

<https://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/alertsadvories/pdf/update4620.pdf>

<https://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/alertsadvories/pdf/update41020.pdf>

Providers should be aware that serological testing is not considered diagnostic for COVID-19 disease. Serological testing detects antibodies that likely resulted from an infection with SARS-CoV-2, or possibly a related coronavirus. For more information on the use of COVID-19 serological testing, please see the Infectious Disease Society of America's *IDSA COVID-19 Antibody Testing Primer*: <https://www.idsociety.org/globalassets/idsa/public-health/covid-19/idsa-covid-19-antibody-testing-primer.pdf>.