



Public Health Update

**COVID-19 Testing Requests at Primary Care, Urgent Care and Non-Hospital Clinic
Facilities**

March 12, 2020

Situation

For primary care providers, urgent cares and non-hospital clinics:

In response to possible exposures to COVID-19 here in the Las Vegas Valley, many residents are visiting primary care, urgent care and non-hospital clinics for testing. The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) is asking that all primary care providers at outpatient facilities to not refer patients to hospital emergency rooms to get tested. Providers now have the ability to collect samples and submit to either Quest Diagnostics or LabCorp directly so there is no need to refer patients to hospitals for testing. If patients are ill and if they are in stable condition, they should follow the providers recommendations for self-care which may include home quarantine.

Emergency rooms are currently experiencing high levels of patient load and are trying to maintain testing capability for those who are severely ill.

Recommendations for Healthcare Providers for Collecting Specimens

- Assess and examine patient per CDC guidelines
- If testing is warranted, perform collection and submit to Quest Diagnostics or LabCorp
- Advise patient of self-care recommendations

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fermin Leguen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Fermin Leguen, MD
Acting Chief Health Officer
Southern Nevada Health District

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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