This standing order is issued by Dr. Cara Christ, MD MS (NP #1639369036), Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services. This standing order authorizes any medical provider/trained personnel at a medically-supervised COVID-19 testing unit in Arizona to collect and send a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test for any individual in accordance with the conditions of this order.

**PATIENT ELIGIBILITY**

The following criteria are required for a medical provider/trained personnel at a testing unit to collect a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR test by this standing order:

- Individual who reports that he or she is symptomatic of COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, myalgia or fatigue
- Individual who has signed a consent and voluntary isolation agreement (or parent/guardian, if patient cannot legally consent)

**PLAN OF CARE**

Medical provider/trained personnel operating at a testing unit may collect a nasopharyngeal swab and order a SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR.

A. Preparation to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:
   1. Ensure correct testing materials: (1) Sterile Dacron/nylon swab with an aluminum or plastic shaft (cotton swabs with wooden shafts are not recommended); (1) Viral transport media tube with 1-3mL of sterile viral transport medium.
   2. Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment for medical provider: gloves, gowns, surgical mask (or respirator) and eye protection (goggles or face shield).

B. Instructions to collect a nasopharyngeal swab:
   1. Tilt patient’s head back 70 degrees.
   2. Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate. Leave the swab in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions.
   3. Slowly remove swab while rotating it.
   4. Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.

C. Instructions to process clinical specimens:
   1. Store specimens at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.
   2. Process specimens in accordance with national biological safety regulations, procedures as listed under the CDC Emergency Authorization Agreement, and the supervising Arizona healthcare facility.

**NOTE:** Emergency medical services should be activated if a patient appears toxic, is struggling to breathe, or moribund.

**FOLLOW-UP**

1. Test results should be reported to the patient within one week of the testing unit’s receipt of the test result.
   - A positive result requires continued in home isolation per local health department recommendations.
2. Results should be reported to the Arizona Department of Health Services, as required by Arizona Administrative Code, R9-6-202.

Cara Christ, MD MS, Director of Arizona Department of Health Services
Effective Date: 3/16/2020; Expiration Date: 3/16/2022

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