



**OKLAHOMA**  
**State Department of Health**

## **COVID-19 Testing - Public Health Laboratory**

In order to enhance the state's response to COVID-19, the public health laboratory (PHL) is working to develop the capacity to test specimens submitted by healthcare providers. Currently, all specimens are being sent to the CDC in Atlanta. Having the capability to test in state will reduce the amount of time it takes to receive test results for a person under investigation for COVID-19. Local testing will allow public health officials to quickly determine a negative test result. A positive test result will be forwarded to the CDC for confirmation.

### **KEY FACTS:**

- The Oklahoma State Department of Health houses the only public health laboratory (PHL) in the state.
- The dedicated professionals in the public health lab have received test kits from the CDC and are working through the validation process established by the CDC/FDA Emergency Use Agreement.
- The test kits are provided to the state by the CDC at no cost.
- The public health lab does not charge for testing specimens received by health care providers.
- The expected turn around time for test results is 24-72 hours, depending on the volume of specimens submitted.
- After validation is completed and the PHL is at full capacity, we expect to be able to run about 100 tests per day.
- The PHL receives and tests more than 200,000 specimens annually from county health departments, hospitals, physicians and clinics across the state to assess the health status of the community and to prevent widespread illness.
- The Oklahoma PHL performs more than 680,000 tests on these specimens, including screening for genetic disorders in newborns, detection of rabies virus, Zika virus, tuberculosis, HIV, syphilis, and identification of various foodborne and environmental pathogens, and agents of terrorism.

