

ROY COOPER • Governor MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary ELIZABETH CUERVO TILSON, MD, MPH • State Health Director MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health Division of Public Health

Date: June 23, 2020
To: All North Carolina Clinicians
From: Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Re: Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2

NC DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH

HUMAN SER

Antigen tests are designed for rapid diagnosis of active infection by detecting viral proteins in nasal swabs or similar clinical specimens. Several commercial manufacturers are developing SARS-CoV-2 antigen tests, although only one test kit has obtained FDA Emergency Use Authorization so far (Sofia 2 SARS Antigen FIA; Quidel Corporation).

Antigen tests are less sensitive than PCR-based methods. Due to the lower sensitivity, antigen tests are not recommended as a sole diagnostic test for COVID-19.

Positive antigen tests should be considered an indication of likely SARS-CoV-2 infection and immediately reported to the state or local health departments per <u>existing guidance</u>. Clinicians should review guidance for <u>persons under investigation</u> with patients who have positive antigen results; further public health actions including isolation and contact tracing will be taken in coordination with the local health department.

Patients with a negative antigen test in whom SARS-CoV-2 infection is suspected should be tested using a different FDA authorized molecular method.

Additional Information for Healthcare Providers

- The most current information on testing and testing resources is available at https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/about-covid-19/testing.
- The most current recommendations regarding infection prevention, therapeutic options and other topics are available at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html.
- Additional information and resources for providers and the public are available at https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov.
- Providers needing consultation can call the epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419.
- Members of the public should call 2-1-1 or 888-892-1162 or text COVIDNC to 898211.
- Providers and patients can utilize NCCARE360 to identify and connect to medical and non-medical health related resources <u>https://nccare360.org/</u>.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 5605 Six Forks Road, Building 3, Raleigh, NC 27609 MAILING ADDRESS: 1931 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1931 www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-707-5000 • FAX: 919-870-4829

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