

Mass Testing for Colleges, Universities, and Technical Schools

#1 Goal: Slow the Spread of COVID-19

- [Testing](#) to diagnose COVID-19 is only one component of a comprehensive strategy to slow the spread of this disease
- Other critical components include:
 - [Promoting behaviors that reduce spread](#)
 - [Maintaining healthy environments](#)
 - [Maintaining healthy operations](#)
 - [Preparing for when someone gets sick](#)



For more information, please see CDC's
[“Considerations for Schools”](#)

South Dakota COVID-19 Testing Plan

Strategies

1. Ensure Statewide Access to Testing for all Symptomatic Individuals
2. Conduct Mass, Point Prevalence and Sentinel Testing for At-Risk and Targeted Vulnerable populations
3. Assist Communities to Conduct Testing
4. Adapt to Changing Testing Needs and Capabilities

Types of COVID-19 Testing

- **Mass Testing:** testing a large number of individuals in a short amount of time to determine the prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in a population
- **Sentinel Testing:** testing a few asymptomatic individuals over time (i.e. each week or month) to monitor SARS-CoV-2 in a population
- **Point-Prevalence Testing:** testing individuals that may have had a high-risk exposure to a known case of COVID-19 in a population

Types of SARS-CoV-2 Tests

- **Antibody Tests:**
 - Detect past SARS-CoV-2 infections
 - Antibody tests typically detect immunoglobulin proteins (IgM/IgG)
 - Not useful for identification of active infections
- **Diagnostic Tests:**
 - Detect active SARS-CoV-2 infections
 - Antigen Tests: detect viral proteins
 - Molecular (PCR) Tests: detect the genome of SARS-CoV-2

For more information, please see CDC's
[“Testing for COVID-19”](#)

COVID-19 Testing: How It Works

COVID-19 Testing: Process Overview

1. Medical order(s)
2. Participant Consent/Release of Information
3. Specimen Collection
4. Specimen Packaging/Shipping
5. Specimen Testing
6. Result Reporting

1. Medical Order(s)

- Medical orders come from a health care provider such as a physician
- Medical orders can be provided as a standing order for multiple participants over time
- DOH has a medical order template that can be adapted for mass testing events



2. Participant Consent and Release of Information

- Participation in mass testing is voluntary
- Participants must consent to specimen collection and testing
- Colleges, universities, and technical schools can use a preexisting consent and release of information form that has been adapted to mass testing or use the templated created by the DOH



3. Specimen Collection

- A variety of specimens can be collected for SARS-CoV-2 testing
- Nasal specimens are becoming very popular because of ease of collection and concordant results when compared with other specimen types
- Nasal specimens can be self-collected if observed by a health care provider
- Appropriate PPE is required for any specimen collection



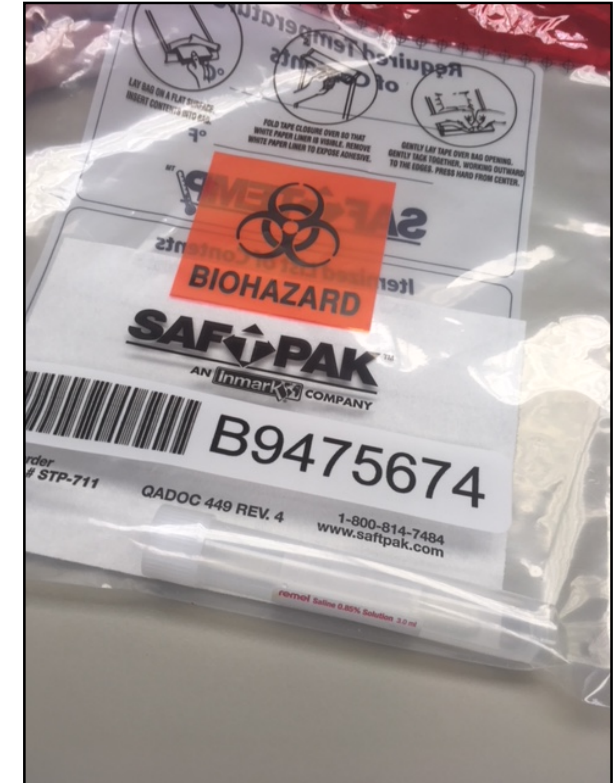
Provider Observed Self Collection



Provider Collected Specimen

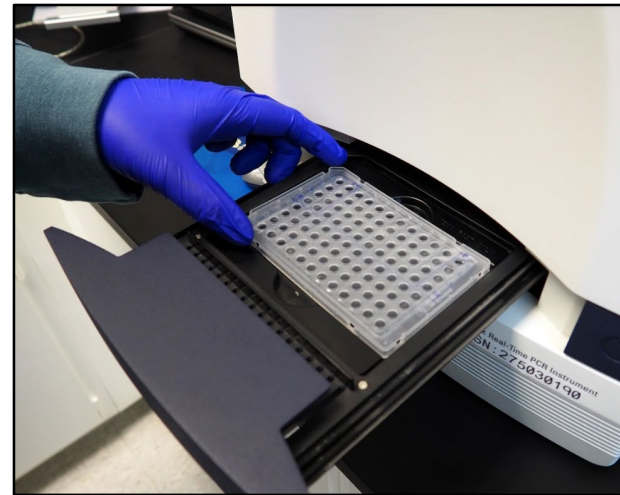
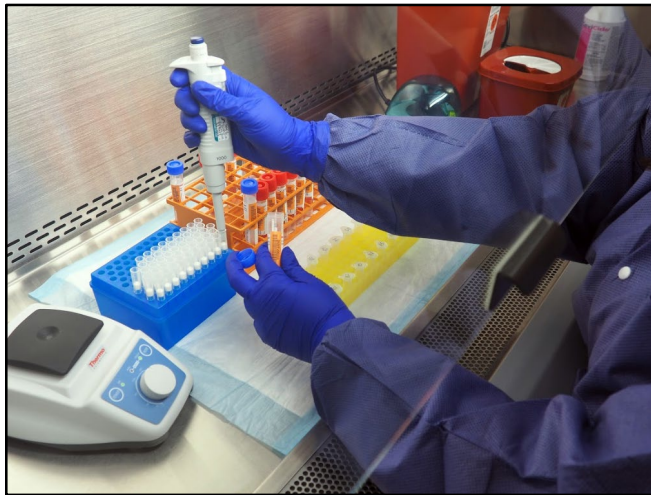
4. Specimen Packaging/Shipping

- Specimens are packaged according to instructions provided by the laboratory that will perform COVID-19 testing
- Packaging typically involves placing the specimen in a clear biohazard bag
- Specimens are almost always stored and transported on ice or ice packs
- Specimens should be transported using instructions provided by the laboratory that will perform COVID-19 testing



5. Specimen Testing

- Specimens can be tested at many laboratories in South Dakota and around the country
- It is up to your institution to establish a relationship with a laboratory that can provide COVID-19 testing services



6. Result Reporting

- Turn-around time for COVID-19 testing can vary greatly
- Most laboratories are providing results within 72 hours of receiving specimen(s)
- Results are shared with the points-of-contact at the institution listed on the consent/release of information form. That individual or group of individuals is responsible for notifying participants of their results
 - Participants are usually notified of positive results immediately by phone with an official notification to follow
 - Negative results are usually shared with the participant in a letter or other secure means of notification

Considerations for Mass Testing Events

Define Your Objective(s)

1. Determine the scope and scale of testing that needs to be performed at your institution
 - Entire campus community?
 - Students only?
 - Students living in congregate housing?
 - Dorms
 - Apartments
 - Fraternities and sororities
 - Athletes



Establish Partnerships Early

1. Identify a laboratory that will provide specimen collection supplies and perform your testing
 - Commercial laboratory such as [LabCorp](#)
 - In-state clinical laboratory
2. Identify a community partner that can assist with specimen collection
3. Work with your partners to determine a timeline for mass testing your campus community

Develop Logistical Awareness

1. Find a location that can accommodate specimen collection for hundreds or even thousands of participants
 - Drive-through testing
 - Walk-up testing
2. Advertise your collection event to the appropriate target populations
3. Work closely with your community partner to collect specimens



Communicate With Your Laboratory

1. Maintain open communication with your laboratory
 - Provide your laboratory updates when you ship and the number of specimens you ship
 - Work with your laboratory to determine the best mechanism to communicate results to your institution
2. Align your expectations about turn-around time
 - TAT is volume-dependent
 - As testing increases across the nation, TAT may

Have a Result Notification Plan

1. Be prepared to communicate A LOT of results to participants in a short amount of time
2. Stand up a call center or implement some other high-throughput mechanism for participant notification
3. Be prepared to work with the DOH when testing identifies a COVID-19 case at your institution

Questions?