Testing for 2019-nCoV must be approved in advance by the NYC DOHMH. Do not send specimens to the NYC PHL unless the requesting provider has received DOHMH approval. Provider testing guidance can be found on the DOHMH website: https://www.nyc1.gov/site/doh/providers/health-topics/novel-respiratory-viruses.page

If DOHMH approves testing, providers should collect:
- 2 nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs
- 1 oropharyngeal (OP) swab
- 1 lower respiratory tract specimen (sputum, tracheal aspirate, or bronchoalveolar lavage)
- 1 serum specimen

and submit to the clinical laboratory at your facility.

Does your laboratory perform a molecular respiratory panel test (i.e. GenMark ePlex Respiratory Pathogen Panel, VERIGENE® Respiratory Pathogens Flex Test, or BioFire FilmArray Respiratory Panel)?

- Yes
- No

Conduct the molecular respiratory panel test

Send all of the above specimens to the NYC PHL for BioFire Respiratory Panel testing and 2019-nCoV testing

What was the result?

- Positive on any panel
- Negative on all panels

Report result to provider for discussion with DOHMH to determine next steps.

Send the following specimens to the NYC PHL for BioFire Respiratory Panel testing and 2019-nCoV testing:
- Leftover of the NP swab tested in the clinical lab
- 1 NP swab
- 1 OP swab
- 1 lower respiratory tract specimen
- 1 serum specimen

GUIDANCE FOR CLINICAL LABORATORIES HANDLING SPECIMENS FOR 2019-nCoV TESTING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do not attempt viral culture of specimens from patients suspected of being infected with 2019-nCoV.

CDC has released interim laboratory biosafety guidelines for handling and processing specimens associated with 2019-nCoV. For detailed information, please visit:

For specimen collection and handling guidance, Laboratory Test Request Forms for 2019-nCoV testing and BioFire Respiratory Panel testing, and the link to order NYC PHL tests electronically through eOrder, please visit:

For CDC and WHO guidance for healthcare professionals and laboratories, please visit:
4. https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/HAN00426.asp
5. https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus

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