

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH  
Commissioner




Ned Lamont  
Governor  
Susan Bysiewicz  
Lt. Governor

### HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

#### BLAST FAX 2020-53

TO: All Laboratories

FROM: Commissioner Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH 

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA  
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch  
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section

DATE: May 7, 2020

SUBJECT: **Request to complete daily survey on COVID-19 sampling and/or testing at your facility**

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*As Connecticut prepares for statewide testing and with nursing home residents a high priority, it is important that data be collected to inform future decision making. It is essential as we move forward that we get a clear understanding with regards to volume of testing, laboratory capabilities, relationships that congregate settings have with laboratories, and challenges to testing that facilities may have.*

Our records show that your facility currently collects and/or tests COVID-19 patient samples. I am writing to ask for your assistance with increasing capacity in the state-wide COVID-19 testing network.



Phone: (860) 509-7400 • Fax: (860) 509-7543  
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Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

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Demand for COVID-19 Testing is expected to increase significantly as our state reopens during 2020. The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and partners are working to remove testing capacity constraints and meet our future demand.

To do this effectively, our Department needs a live view of capacity in Connecticut. Specifically:

- **Current capacity** – samples/tests collected in *last 24 hours*
- **Current utilization** – maximum number of samples/tests which *could* have been collected in last 24 hours, had demand been greater
- **Capacity constraints** – view on *which factors* limit current capacity, and on-hand supplies of key constraints; labor, PPE, consumables, storage space, delivery and other constraints
- **Existing relationships** – *facilities* with whom your facility currently collaborates; *populations* your facility is currently testing such as asymptomatic in-patients

The DPH has developed a short survey, which can be accessed through a web link. Because of the criticality of this effort, from May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 - **all CT facilities processing COVID-19 samples or tests are required to complete this survey daily**. We ask that this survey is completed before 10 am using information from the previous working day.

Web link: <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov>

If your facility experiences difficulties filling in this survey, a dedicated support team can be contacted by emailing [HelpDesk.dph@ct.gov](mailto:HelpDesk.dph@ct.gov)

Finally, please accept our thanks for you continued efforts to protect the residents of Connecticut. We recognize your facility is facing unprecedented challenges and are immeasurably grateful for your support.