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To: Medical Community

Company:

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From: Iredell County Health Department

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Confidential: □Yes ☑No

Urgent: ☑Yes □No

Sending Division: □Executive □Administration
☑Clinical Services □Environmental Health
□Development & Promotion

Message from ICHD: The Iredell County Health Department is strongly encouraging you to make sure you have the appropriate lab supplies on hand in the event you need to test for COVID-19. This includes both specimen collection supplies and shipping supplies. Please work with your medical supply company to obtain these supplies as soon as possible.

Providing Excellent Public Health Services for Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday!

Promoting & Offering:
- Child & Adult Immunizations
- Child Health Clinic
- Dental Services
- Flu Shot Clinics
- Family Planning Services
- Prenatal/Maternal Health Services
- Providing Laboratory Services
- STD Services
- Women Infants and Children Nutrition Services

Physicals:
- Sports
- Work
- College
- DOT
- Women’s Health

Health Assessment and Planning:
- Evaluating County Health Status
- Monitoring & Reducing Health Hazards
- Reducing Specific Disease and Injury
- Providing Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Issuing Health Advisories & News Releases
- Implementing Policies, Processes, and Environmental Changes to Improve Health
- Providing Health Education & Information
- Planning Partnerships with Health Care Providers
- Improving Healthy Eating, Active Living and Tobacco-free Living
- Improving Access to Health Care

Environmental Health:
- Ensuring Water Quality
- Monitoring Waste Disposal
- Fighting Pollution
- Ensuring Sanitation
- Enforcing Health and Safety Codes

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Memo: Iredell County Healthcare Providers

Re: COVID-19 Testing Supplies

Date: March 12, 2020

The Iredell County Health Department is strongly encouraging you to make sure you have the appropriate lab supplies on hand in the event you need to test for COVID-19. This includes both specimen collection supplies and shipping supplies. Please work with your medical supply company to obtain these supplies as soon as possible. Also, below is a link for purchasing shipping supplies.

For NP and OP collections, you will need synthetic fiber swabs with either a plastic or metal shaft, and viral media transport. For sputum, a sterile leak-proof, screw cap sputum collection cup or dry container. Here is what the State Lab website says, including storage information: https://slph.ncpublichealth.com/bioterrorism/2019-ncov.asp

The specimens are considered a class 6.2 Category B agent, and should be handled as such when packaging and shipping. They will need a triple packaging system consisting of a primary container, a secondary container, absorbent material between the containers, and an outer shipping container that is rigid and durable (ex: cardboard, wood, etc.) and should measure at least 4” x 4” on at least one surface. The primary or secondary container must be able to withstand an internal pressure of at least 95 pKa due to shipping in unpressurized cargo aircrafts. Here is a link on more information about packaging and shipping. https://www.asm.org/ASM/media/Policy-and-Advocacy/LRN/Sentinel%20Files/PackAndShip.pdf.

If you need shipping supplies, Saf T Pak is an option for purchasing. https://us.shop.lifescience.inmarkinc.com/collections/new-shipping-supplies-products?page=1

The Health Department has a very limited supply of test kits from the State. If you need to request a kit from us, please be prepared to come pick it up. We are tasked with responding to all concerns in Iredell County related to COVID-19. Unfortunately, we do not have the personnel to deliver the test kit to your establishment without compromising our responsiveness efforts. It is imperative that you plan for the screening and testing of individuals suspected as having COVID-19 now instead of waiting until they arrive in your office. Please contact Cheslie Carter, Lab Manager, at 704-611-2457, Cheslie.carter@co.iredell.nc.us if you have any questions.