



## ***4/23/20-- Uinta County COVID-19 Update***

### **STATE LAB ANNOUNCES ABILITY TO EXPAND TESTING PRIORITIES**

The Wyoming Public Health Lab announced that they had been able to acquire sufficient supplies, especially including the chemicals needed to perform the test for coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), to expand the testing priorities to include ALL patients with COVID-like symptoms.

Healthcare providers make the final decisions as to who is tested, and that has always been the case, but for those patients who didn't fall within the testing priority guidelines, samples had to be sent to private labs.

For a time, the Wyoming Public Health Lab was only able to accept samples from patients who were symptomatic, AND also were either healthcare workers, residents of long-term care facilities, or who were at higher risk for serious complications from COVID-19.

Yesterday evening the State Lab announced that they had received sufficient supplies to be able to expand those testing recommendations.

Bottlenecks in supplies for testing included chemicals needed on the sample-taking side, as well as in the chemicals, or reagents, needed for the actual lab test of the samples.

These tests are the PCR-RNA tests that detect presence of the virus. (As opposed to the antibody serum testing.)

While use of cloth face coverings and continuing social distancing measures will be an important part of the steps ahead, increased testing is one of the important conditions needed to collect the data to guide decisions and prepare for the process of easing some of the virus mitigation measures.

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