

# Expanding COVID-19 testing capacity in partnership with the State

Developed by the California Coronavirus Testing Task Force  
January 2021



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# Context

The State of California has established the **California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Valencia Branch Laboratory** with **PerkinElmer** and contracted with **Color** to expand testing models



## The expanded testing models support broader California objectives<sup>1</sup>...

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**Capacity** – Valencia Branch Laboratory (VBL) opened in November with a capacity of 40K tests/ day and the goal of ramping to 150K tests/day

**Equity** – Expanded testing models aim to serve the most vulnerable and at-risk populations

**Cost sustainability** – Both sample collection and test processing costs are competitive

**Access** – The state's contracts with PerkinElmer and Color can enable convenient access to testing through mobile and community based testing

1. Objectives defined by Testing Task Force and CDPH

2. Populations defined by CDPH and sized in Testing Strategic Plan

3. As defined by CDPH



## ...including addressing the testing needs of impacted populations<sup>2,3</sup>

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Hospitals

FQHCs and community clinics

Places of worship

Schools and universities

Congregate settings

Medium contact workers (Agricultural workers, meat processing)

# There are two potential types of partnership with VBL

## ① Testing capacity for health care personnel

## ② Testing capacity for all hospital constituencies

<b>Description</b>	COVID-19 screening of health care personnel at hospitals that require additional capacity	COVID-19 testing support available for hospitals that materially advance health equity goals, i.e., whose patients come from communities disproportionately effected by the pandemic (e.g., black and latinx). Other hospitals facing major blockers to acquiring necessary COVID-19 tests may be considered
<b>Who could be tested?</b>	Health care personnel	Health care personnel and/or, Non-urgent care patients and/or, Asymptomatic and symptomatic community members
<b>Where would testing potentially take place?</b>	Hospital	Hospital, and/or At a public space (e.g., park), hospital parking lot or other community space (e.g., community center)
<b>How does payment for test processing work?</b>	Hospitals are responsible for payment of costs of test processing via direct billing with the State	The State will pay for test processing costs upfront and, as appropriate, recoup costs through a third-party biller for non-self-insured hospitals
<b>Until when could testing solution be potentially provided?</b>	During State of California’s ongoing emergency declaration	During State of California’s ongoing emergency declaration
<b>Could results potentially integrate with EHR systems?</b>	No	No

# Overview of State and Hospital Responsibilities

## State Responsibilities

- Contract vendors to provision collection kits
- Deliver patient registration system, and test result monitoring / notification system (call and text)
- Oversee sample processing in the laboratory
- Ensure that Valencia Branch Laboratory delivers results within 24-48 hours of receiving the sample
- Provide detailed instructions and guidance for operating testing sites including shipping samples to the laboratory
- Ensure individuals with a positive result receive follow-up (when collection site is unable to follow-up)
- For ongoing testing partnerships, the State will pay for test processing and, as appropriate, recoup costs through a third-party biller for non-self-insured hospitals

## Hospital Responsibilities

- Assess testing demand to meet needs of patients and staff members
- Request kits, to meet demand, through state vendor
- Provide physical space for testing
- Gather provider and patient data and submit via web accessible platform
- Collect sample at the testing site
- Transport sample in-person or via courier to VBL within 24-hours of collection
- Support individuals with technology limitations to access test results
- Pay for essential site costs e.g., courier service, staff, outreach programs, materials etc
- For ongoing testing partnerships hospitals with self-insurance will be responsible for payment of test through direct billing
- For hospitals testing only healthcare providers, Hospitals are responsible for payment of costs of test processing via direct billing with the State

# 5 Key Steps to Operationalizing Testing

- 1 Creating your test plan** by defining your target population, testing volume and frequency, set-up and execution timeline in partnership with your dedicated CDPH program manager

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- 2 Setting up for test collection** by working through your set-up check-list, registering on the Color platform and ordering test kits from the state

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- 3 Conducting tests** by registering individuals, utilizing the tests kits<sup>1</sup> to supervise self-collection, and providing each person with their customized COVID card to access test results via SMS or email

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- 4 Shipping your specimens to the state** by utilizing shipping materials provided with the collection kit to return tests to the lab

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- 5 Reporting and Billing.** If applicable, monitor the Color platform for patients results<sup>2</sup> and the lab will take care of billing insurance

1. Test kits contain anterior nasal swabs  
2. For any positive test results will be contacted by state clinical staff

## Next Steps

**Review the [VBL Playbook](#)** for information on the CDPH Valencia Branch Laboratory and how to stand up collection sites

**Please complete the [interest form at this link](#)** to help us better understand your hospital and your COVID-19 testing needs and interest in participating in testing with the Valencia Branch Laboratory

If you have additional questions or would like to share additional information, please reach out by email to [Testing.Taskforce@state.ca.gov](mailto:Testing.Taskforce@state.ca.gov)

# Supporting materials

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# Testing timeline and activities

■ State responsibility   ■ Hospital responsibility

## Before setting up testing

10-14 days

### Create testing plan

- Understand hospital need for testing
- Estimate daily testing volume
- Complete MOU and State Engagement Form

5-7 days

### Set up for testing

- Provide physical space
- Request testing kits
- Procure PPE
- Set up technology/register with Color
- Train staff and recruit if necessary

1-4 days

### Sign people up for testing

- Register patients
- Schedule appointments (if applicable)
- Outreach to community (if applicable)

## Testing day

### Run test collection

- Manage on-site logistics
- Supervise collection (or administer tests)
- Prepare samples for collection
- Register walk-up appointments (for community testing only)

## After test

1 day

### Ship your samples

- Store samples for pickup
- Package samples
- Arrange sample transportation

2 days

### Process, report results and follow-up

- Process sample and report results (within 24-48 hours of lab receiving sample)
- Follow up with resources for positive cases (within 12 hours of result)

3 days

Detailed instructions for each step are available and can be shared upon request for interested providers



# Testing model vendors

Testing model include services from:



Manages Valencia Branch Laboratory and is responsible for processing specimens within 48 hours of arrival to lab



Provides collection kits (including materials to ship collection kit to lab) and IT platform to collect patient information and deliver result to ordering provider, patient & CalREDIE