



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

15 January 2021
RE: SARS-CoV-2 Sample Request

To whom this may concern,

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories has been providing support for the SARS-CoV-2 response through performing whole genome sequencing. The ability to accurately examine outbreaks within facilities, community transmission dynamics, and the emergence of new variants requires a diversity of samples throughout the state.

We are requesting 10 positive SARS-CoV-2 residual samples, at least 500 ul, to be frozen and sent to the state laboratory in the specimen tube on a weekly basis.

Accepted Specimens for the Novel 2019 Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) sequencing analysis are:

- Nasopharyngeal swabs in viral transport medium, Amies Transport Media, or PBS;
- Nasal swabs in viral transport medium, Amies Transport Media, or PBS;
- OP swabs in viral transport medium, Amies Transport Media, or PBS;
- Nasal aspirates;
- Mid-turbinate swabs in viral transport medium, Amies Transport Media, or PBS;
- Sputum.

If your lab is running a molecular diagnostic test that reports Ct values, samples with Ct < 30 are acceptable with submission. Other diagnostic tests that do not report a Ct value are welcome for submission without any diagnostic cutoff. Additionally, if nucleic acid extractions are being performed within the laboratory and dry ice is accessible, we are requesting that residual RNA, at least 30 ul, be frozen and sent to the state laboratory in storage tubes with dry ice instead of the clinical specimens.

Submitted specimens should highlight a diverse geographic and demographic group to ensure that we are fully capturing the region that your laboratory is located. Any specimens that may have international travel, present with severe clinical outcomes, or are potential re-infection cases, should be submitted and flagged upon submission. This will help us to capture any emerging variants that may have an impact on public health action.

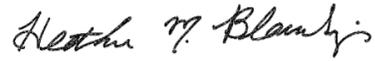
Shipping of samples should follow Category B regulations. Any shipping materials can be provided to labs that need assistance in procuring materials or shipping labels. Please email MDHHSlab@michigan.gov with your request. In the request, please include a note that the shipping materials will be used for sequencing surveillance and a point of contact with shipping address and phone number. Please be specific about the items that you are requesting and the quantity of specimens that you will be shipping. These items will only be sent out upon each request due to the number of resources available and ability to reutilize some of the materials upon receipt at BOL. Shipments should be planned out so that they arrive at BOL on Monday to Friday to ensure that samples are received.

The attached requisition form is to be used and returned with any sample submissions for SARS-CoV-2 sequencing. If you will be able to contribute more than 10 samples a week or have additional questions, please use my contact information below and we can discuss submission options.

Results obtained from whole genome sequencing of submitted samples are not meant for clinical care and will not be generated in a report format. Public facing analyses are still being developed to share information. As development nears completion, additional information will be shared on how to access data and the finalized format.

Thank you in advance for helping to contribute to the State of Michigan's response to SARS-CoV-2 through whole genome sequencing!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather M. Blankenship". The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

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