



April 13, 2020

**ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chief Executive Officers, Member Rural and Critical Access Hospitals  
Chief Medical Officers  
Chief Nursing Officers  
Lab Directors  
Heads of Emergency Room  
Emergency Preparedness Staff

**FROM:** A.J. Wilhelmi, President & CEO  
Nichole Magalis, Vice President, Member Advocacy  
Abby Radcliffe, Director, Small and Rural Hospital Constituency Section

**SUBJECT: Rural Hospitals' COVID-19 Testing**

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Ngozi Ezike, M.D., recently announced hospitals in counties that IDPH considers rural and Critical Access Hospitals can submit COVID-19 specimens to the state's Carbondale laboratory for testing to reduce the wait time. Leslie Chapman, who is in charge of the lab, has provided the following information:

- One sample per patient.
- Swabs can be collected in Viral Transport Media, Universal Transport Media, E swabs with liquid Amies, and sterile saline.
- Samples must reach the lab within 72 hours of collection and should be shipped or sent via a courier with frozen cold packs.
- A form must accompany each specimen:  
<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/covid19-respiratory-testing-form.pdf>

Turn-around time for results will vary depending on workload. The lab is aiming to maintain a turn-around time of no more than three days.

Questions about this process should be directed to Leslie Chapman or Chris Vogt at the Carbondale lab at 618-457-5131.