

## Public Health Mono-Gram

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## **Testing for Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Mono County Public Health Department is closely monitoring the risk of COVID-19 for the general public in the Eastern Sierra, which remains low. There are no cases of COVID-19 in either Mono or Inyo Counties. While the federal government has communicated that testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) is now available with a doctor's order, there continues to be limitations in the supply of test kits and laboratory capacity to run them.

At this time laboratory testing for the new coronavirus is available at some of California's public health labs but the number of tests that these labs can perform is still limited. Requests for testing have to be approved by the local public health department and we have to consider each request on a case-by-case basis with the requesting doctor or advanced practice practitioner. It is important to prioritize those who are more likely to have coronavirus infection and those who are sicker or at higher risk.

There are no public health labs in the Eastern Sierra region, and any specimens collected locally would be sent to California state labs for testing. We expect the availability of lab testing to improve in the near future. Commercial labs will soon be able to offer testing.

If you are concerned that you may be infected with COVID-19, please call your healthcare provider for guidance. For Mammoth Hospital and Clinics, please call the Emergency Department at 760-924-4076. When you call, you will be given directions on where to go and what to do.