



NIAGARA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
5467 Upper Mountain Road, Suite 100
Lockport, New York 14094-1894

Daniel J. Stapleton, MBA
Public Health Director
(716) 439-7435 Office
dan.stapleton@niagaracounty.com

Elise K. Pignatora, MS
Director of Public Health Planning &
Emergency Preparedness
(716) 439-7431 Office
elise.pignatora@niagaracounty.com

Laurie Schoenfeldt, RN, BSN
Nursing Director
(716) 278-1933 Office
laurie.schoenfeldt@niagaracounty.com

April 20, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Testing **UPDATE** (*original distribution on 4/5/2020*)

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Niagara County Department of Health (NCDOH) has been working vigilantly to increase 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) sampling for Niagara County residents. Enhanced sampling will aid in quickly identifying positive cases, isolating those persons and mitigating spread of the virus. We have secured a small inventory of sampling kits and in an effort to maximize use of them, are seeking your support to identify healthcare workers, first responders, **pregnant women, and other essential workers¹** eligible for testing.

Should you have a patient that meets the following criteria, and you would like the person considered for testing, please contact the Niagara County Nursing Division at 716-278-1900:

- **Healthcare worker with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and/or close contact to a confirmed case²**
- **First responder (i.e. firefighter, EMS, law enforcement, etc.) with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 and/or close contact to a confirmed case¹**
- **Pregnant patient with signs/symptoms and/or close contact to a confirmed case²**
- **Essential Worker with signs/symptoms and/or close contact to a confirmed case²**

If you are interested in collecting samples for your patients and need sampling supplies, please contact the Nursing Division at 716-278-1900.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Stapleton

¹ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-issues-guidance-essential-services-under-new-york-state-pause-executive-order>

² Generally, close contact means being within 6 feet of a person for longer than 10 minutes:
https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/contacts_of_contacts_guidance.pdf