

COVID-19 Testing and Implications for Public Health Decision Making



TALKING POINTS

- Currently, negative COVID-19 test results have too much uncertainty.
- USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) cannot recommend community screening with the currently available tests at this time.
- When making important COVID-19 public health related decisions, positive test results are more reliable and provide a more accurate representation of the health of the community than do negative results.
- There are two types of tests being conducted. Abbott Test: ID Now COVID-19 (10 – 15-minute rapid test) and COVID-19 RT-PCR Test (approximately 3 hours).
- PCR testing generally provides more reliable results when compared to molecular tests like ID Now COVID-19.
- In the case that the infrastructure and capacity to implement community testing exists, the USET TEC recommends a drive-thru testing model using the COVID-19 PCR test with appropriate clinical support, public health follow up, and community education.
- Due to reliability issues and accuracy of the current COVID-19 testing, positive and negative test results should both be taken with a degree of uncertainty.
- Preventive measures, such as handwashing practices and social distancing, should be emphasized regardless of a negative or positive test results to protect healthy individuals and decrease the spread of COVID-19.
- Patients should review symptoms, preventive measures, and general education regarding COVID-19 to counteract the misinformation and anxiety about the disease.
- Inquiries regarding any current symptoms and answering any questions the patient may have should also be addressed at the time results are relayed.
- The use of cloth masks among all people while in public settings (i.e.- grocery stores, essential businesses) has been nationally advised, we at USET TEC advise this as well.



COVID-19
Testing



Hand
Washing



Social
Distancing



Face
Covering

Please visit the following link for more information on the use of cloth masks:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>



www.TribalEpiCenters.org