

# MLS Laboratory Update: Updated Guidance for Submission of SARS-CoV-2 specimens for Sequencing

MARCH 15, 2022

## Purpose of this Message:

MDH-PHL is updating the submission guidance for whole-genome sequencing (WGS) of positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens. The updated guidelines are below.

## Action Item:

Please review the following information and submit specimens, according to the criteria below, from patients who have a **positive SARS-CoV-2 test result** from either PCR or rapid molecular methods, tested at your facility.

## Background:

Due to the changing dynamics of COVID-19 in MN, MDH-PHL is requesting an **increase** in submission of positive SARS-CoV-2 specimens for sequencing to maintain adequate surveillance in order to detect new variants.

## Additional Information:

**Starting this week, ALL laboratories**, (regardless of size): Submit up to **10** specimens per week with a Ct  $\leq 30$ . Please continue to send ALL positive specimens with a Ct value of  $\leq 30$  from the following patient categories:

- hospitalized SARS-CoV-2 positive patient
- failure of monoclonal antibody treatment

If your testing method does not generate a Ct value, please submit any positive specimens following the current guidance above.

Note: MDH-PHL is no longer asking specifically for specimens from vaccine breakthrough cases or suspected re-infection. Those specimens can be submitted as part of the weekly submission for surveillance.

Please see [Infectious Disease Lab COVID-19 Sample Submission Updates](#) for specimen submission guidelines and forms.

Variant Tracking and Results Reporting: Sequencing results on submitted specimens will NOT be reported back to submitters at the individual specimen level. Surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 variants circulating in Minnesota will be updated via MLS every three weeks.

Thank you for your ongoing participation and dedication to SARS-CoV-2 surveillance.

Questions, please contact:

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