ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

NO. HO-COVID19-10

STANDING ORDER AUTHORIZING THE TESTING OF SPECIFIED INDIVIDUALS FOR THE VIRUS THAT CAUSES COVID-19 AND PROCESSING BY COMMERCIAL CLINICAL LABORATORIES

DATE OF ORDER: May 1, 2020

Summary: In response to the outbreak of a novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which causes a respiratory illness known as coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”), and in order to maintain the health and safety of the people of Contra Costa County (“County”) and limit the further spread of infection, it is necessary to expand COVID-19 testing accessibility within the County. This Order authorizes the testing of individuals who (1) meet the criteria for testing; (2) do not have orders from their personal physicians; and (3) provide specimens for collection at sites in the County operated by or on behalf of OptumServe or its subsidiary, Logistics Health, Inc. (collectively “OptumServe”), under contract with the State of California. This Order also serves as an assignment of such tests for processing to clinical laboratories under Section 1288 of the California Health and Safety Code and requires the reporting of test results to the individuals tested.

UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 101040 and 120175, AND IN HIS CAPACITY AS A LICENSED PHYSICIAN IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, THE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA (“HEALTH OFFICER”) ORDERS:

1. This Order will take effect at 8 a.m. on May 4, 2020, and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Health Officer.

2. Any person who meets COVID-19 testing criteria established by the Health Officer, and does not have an order from his or her personal physician for COVID-19 testing, are authorized to receive COVID-19 testing at any of the COVID-19 test collection sites operated by OptumServe in the County under contract with the State of California (“Testing Sites”).
3. All COVID-19 specimens collected by OptumServe at the Testing Sites from persons described in Paragraph 2 are hereby assigned to the clinical laboratories in the State of California to which the specimens are submitted by OptumServe for processing, in accordance with Section 1288 of the California Business and Professions Code, and the clinical laboratories are hereby directed to accept this assignment and the specimens submitted under this assignment.

4. In accordance with Section 2505 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations (“Section 2505”), the laboratory director of a clinical laboratory that examines a specimen collected under this Order, or the director’s designee, shall timely report the findings of the examination, whether negative or positive, to the local health officer of the jurisdiction in which the tested individual resides. In addition to other information required by Section 2505, reports of test findings must include race/ethnicity data to the extent available. Test findings must be reported to local health officers and the California Department of Public Health in the manner set forth in Contra Costa County Health Officer Order No. HO-COVID19-02.

5. OptumServe shall timely share the results of a test conducted under this Order with the individual who provided the specimen.

6. In accordance with Section 2505, subdivision (k), of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, the results of a COVID-19 test processed under this Order shall constitute protected health information and may not be disclosed except in accordance with applicable laws or regulations or with the consent of the individual tested.

7. Nothing in this Order precludes persons who have orders from their personal physicians for COVID-19 testing from accessing COVID-19 testing at any of the Testing Sites. Specimens collected from these persons will be submitted to clinical laboratories for processing under assignment from those physicians.

8. Questions or comments regarding this Order may be directed to Contra Costa Health Services at (844) 729-8410.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

_______________________________________  Dated:  May 1, 2020
Chris Farnitano, M.D.
Health Officer of the County of Contra Costa