

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic: International Reagent Resource

Attached you will find a Fact Sheet for the International Reagent Resource (IRR) in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), IRR acquires, authenticates, and produces reagents that scientists need to carry out basic research and develop improved diagnostic tests, vaccines, and detection methods. Consolidating testing supplies under the IRR simplifies the resource request process for states and territories and alleviates the burden on public health labs, increasing efficiency by reducing the need to work with separate, individual suppliers for swabs, reagents and other diagnostic testing supplies.

The topline messages include:

- State public health labs to submit open, unfilled requests.
 - State public health labs Must be registered with the IRR in order to access supplies and resources.
- Tribes and other entities continue procuring lab diagnostic supplies through the commercial market.
- Expanded list of diagnostic supplies will include:
 - **Sample kits**, to swab via the nose and/or throat.
 - **Extraction kits**, to isolate the viral genetic material (RNA); and
 - **Test kits**, to determine the presence of COVID-19.
- CDC sends approval requests to IRR for processing within 24-48 hours.
- NRCC continues to provide prioritization guidance to the IRR using epidemiological and testing data.
- Laboratories are encouraged to order reagents in line with immediate (1 – 1 ½ weeks) testing needs to ensure all states and territories may support testing while commercial inventories are relatively constrained.



Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov.
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.
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