



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

December 17, 2020

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY

SUBJECT: Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Laboratory Pre-Testing
Questionnaire

This memorandum provides guidance for a COVID-19 laboratory pre-testing questionnaire that will be mandatory for all Active Duty Service members and encouraged for all other Department of Defense (DoD) beneficiaries treated at military medical treatment facilities. As of Dec 3, 2020, the DoD has administered over 1 million COVID-19 tests for DoD beneficiaries in the direct care system, with little information on the patients' symptoms or exposures. Standardized information regarding the indications for testing, including whether the individual being tested is symptomatic or asymptomatic, and which mitigation measures for controlling the spread of disease each individual followed, is vital in support of performance improvement and force health protection. The current incidence of asymptomatic disease (those at the highest risk for spreading the disease) as it relates to the effectiveness of mitigation measures to control the spread of COVID-19 disease is unknown. This is of significant concern to military readiness. Additionally, it is known that the military community includes dependents and other TRICARE beneficiaries, who may have an impact on the spread of COVID-19 in the military community.

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has analyzed potential solutions and determined that a questionnaire delivered just before COVID-19 laboratory testing, ideally on a personal handheld device, is a safe and effective method of collecting the required information on a large scale from each individual, allow rapid collation of the data, and avoid further propagation of the disease. The DHA developed a secure web-based questionnaire meeting DoD requirements. However, not all military environments conducting COVID-19 testing have reliable access to a web-based questionnaire, service members cannot be compelled to use their personal devices, and Service-specific solutions may accomplish the same endpoint.

Effective immediately, all Military Health System (MHS) individuals conducting laboratory testing for COVID-19, to include laboratory settings, screening centers, emergency departments, and out-of-hospital locations, will:

- Implement the standardized DoD COVID-19 laboratory pre-testing questionnaire using the Quick Response (QR) code link to the questionnaire or established

alternative methodology to collect responses to the questions prior to testing (when possible);

- Require all Active Duty Service members and encourage all other DoD beneficiaries being tested in military medical treatment facilities to complete the questionnaire either using their personal device or via the alternate method that avoids disease exposure, prior to obtaining the COVID-19 laboratory specimen; or
- Complete the questionnaire on behalf of the patient utilizing their DoD identification number if they are unable to do so themselves and if given permission by the patient or surrogate.

The DHA will receive the questionnaire results electronically within the MHS Information Platform COVID 19 registry, synchronized with individual laboratory results as approved by the MHS Chief Information Officer. The database and registry will comply with all applicable laws and regulations, adhere to approved national data standards for protected health information and use data sources approved by MHS governance. DoD leadership will have access to the aggregated results of the COVID 19 questionnaire in support of force health protection and readiness, and through authorized data-sharing agreements.

[REDACTED]

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Tom McCaffery

Attachment:

QR Code, DoD COVID 19 laboratory pre-testing questionnaire

cc:

Surgeon General of the Army

Surgeon General of the Navy

Surgeon General of the Air Force

Director, Joint Staff

Medical Officer of the Marine Corps

DoD Chief Information Officer

QR code for DoD COVID-19 laboratory pre-testing questionnaire



<https://testing.mystatus.mil/>

Thank you for completing this survey to improve the DoD's understanding of the spread of COVID-19 in our military community.

- Complete the survey **before** collecting COVID-19 laboratory specimen.
- Caregivers or family members may complete the survey on behalf of the patient if they are unable to do so themselves.

DoD COVID-19 lab pre-testing questionnaire

1. Why are you getting a COVID test today?

- I was not required to get a COVID test, but I wanted to check my health.
- I was required to get a COVID test.
- Other :

2. Have you previously tested positive for COVID?

- Yes
- No

3. Select your current symptoms:

- Cough
- Fever
- Headache
- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath
- Body aches or muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Altered smell/taste
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Fatigue
- None of the above

4. In the past 14 days, which of the following have you done?

- Traveled by airplane, train, or bus
- Attended a social gathering or event with at least one other person
- Gone to a restaurant or dining facility (DFAC)
- Gone to a gym
- Been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID
- Gone to a store
- Gone to a bar
- None of the above

5. What is your current living situation?

- I live alone
- I have my own bedroom but share common space
- I share a bedroom with others
- I live in military barracks or a similar shared living space
- Other:

6. Do you currently smoke tobacco on a daily basis?

- Yes
- No

7. Do you currently vape on a daily basis?

- Yes
- No

8. In the past 14 days, how often have you done the following?

- Worn a mask outside of the house when you are alone:
 - Always/ Usually/ Seldom/ Never
- Worn a mask outside of the house when you are around other people:
 - Always/ Usually/ Seldom/ Never
- Maintained at least 6 feet of distance from other people outside of the house:
 - Always/ Usually/ Seldom/ Never
- Worked from home:
 - Always/ Usually/ Seldom/ Never

9. DoD ID number: