



**Public Health  
Administration**

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Interim Health Officer

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Dear Laboratory Directors:

CLIA-certified laboratories that pool samples to test for SARS-CoV-2 must not report positive or indeterminate results of a pooled test to either the participants in the pool or to San Bernardino County Department of Public Health (SBCDPH). All participant specimens that were in a pooled test with a positive or indeterminate result should be retested separately, and the subsequent individual diagnostic or screening results must be reported to SBCDPH.

Reporting of Pooled SARS-CoV-2 Testing Results to SBCDPH:

	Surveillance Testing*	Screening or Diagnostic Testing**
<b>Negative (-)</b>	Return pooled results in aggregate to requesting institution (e.g., a university) as presumptive negative. Do not report to SBCDPH as a diagnostic or screening result.	Report each individual in pool as negative to the SBCDPH.
<b>Positive (+) or Indeterminate (+/-)</b>	<b>Do not report pooled result.</b> Perform individual testing and report individual results (+/-) in aggregate to requesting institution (e.g., a university). Do not report to SBCDPH as a diagnostic or screening result.	<b>Do not report pooled result.</b> Perform diagnostic testing of individual specimens, and report each as (+) or (-) to the SBCDPH.

\*Surveillance testing for SARS-CoV-2 includes ongoing systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of population-level prevalence of disease.

\*\*Screening/diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 intended to identify occurrence at the individual level to support the diagnosis of COVID-19.

For more information, please review [Laboratory Pooling Procedures](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thank you for your collaboration,

Erin Gustafson, M.D., MPH  
Interim Health Officer

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