

USET COVID-19 ECHO

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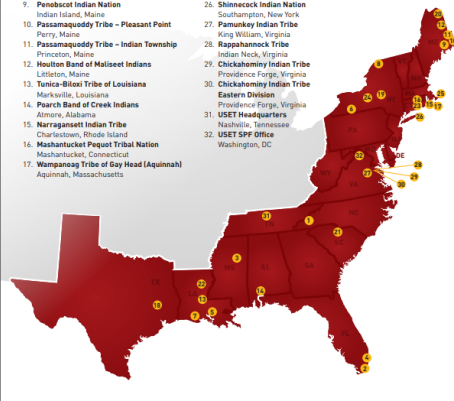


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USET TRIBAL NATIONS & LOCATIONS

- 1. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Cherokee, North Carolina
- 2. Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Miami, Florida
- 3. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Choctaw, Mississippi
- 4. Seminole Tribe of Florida
Hollywood, Florida
- 5. Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
Chariton, Louisiana
- 6. Seneca Nation of Indians
Salamanca, New York
- 7. Coughatta Tribe of Louisiana
Ellon, Louisiana
- 8. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Akwesasne, New York
- 9. Penobscot Indian Nation
Indian Island, Maine
- 10. Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point
Perry, Maine
- 11. Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township
Princeton, Maine
- 12. Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Littleton, Maine
- 13. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
Marksville, Louisiana
- 14. Peach Band of Creek Indians
Almona, Alabama
- 15. Narragansett Indian Tribe
Charlston, Rhode Island
- 16. Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Mashantucket, Connecticut
- 17. Wampanag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Aquinnah, Massachusetts
- 18. Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Livingston, Texas
- 19. Oneida Indian Nation
Verona, New York
- 20. Aronostock Band of Micmacs
Presque Isle, Maine
- 21. Catawba Indian Nation
Rock Hill, South Carolina
- 22. Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Jena, Louisiana
- 23. The Mohican Tribe
Uncasville, Connecticut
- 24. Cayuga Nation
Seneca Falls, New York
- 25. Mashpee Wampanag Tribe
Mashpee, Massachusetts
- 26. Shinnecock Indian Nation
Southampton, New York
- 27. Pamunkey Indian Tribe
King William, Virginia
- 28. Rappahannock Tribe
Indian Neck, Virginia
- 29. Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Providence Forge, Virginia
- 30. Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Eastern Division
Providence Forge, Virginia
- 31. USET Headquarters
Nashville, Tennessee
- 32. USET SPP Office
Washington, DC



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Recommendations for Tribal Consideration

- Condensed CDC, WHO, and Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)-Modified for Tribal Communities
 - Case Definition
 - Abbott ID Now Testing
 - Appropriate Use of Disinfectants
 - Testing and Implications for Public Health Decision Making



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USET Tribal Epidemiology Center Recommendations for Tribal Consideration USET TEC COVID-19 Guidance 2020-006: COVID-19 Testing and Implications for Public Health Decision Making



Background

Community screening is a process used within a target population to identify individuals that have contracted a disease or are at risk of contracting the disease. Community screening specific to COVID-19 should only be conducted when accurate tests are readily available for use and sufficient resources to provide robust monitoring and patient follow up are in place. All diagnostic tests possess a level of uncertainty in the results they yield. Tests being considered for community screening should be carefully reviewed and testing characteristics (e.g., sensitivity, specificity, false negative and false positive rates) should be strongly considered before making community screening decisions.

Thus far, negative COVID-19 test results possess a significant level of uncertainty which raises concern about the use of the resulting data for community screening, or widespread testing among asymptomatic people or people without a known exposure. When making important COVID-19 public health related decisions, positive test results are more reliable and provide a more accurate representation of the health of the community than do negative results.

Currently, due to adverse testing characteristics that exist with currently available COVID-19 testing options, the USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) is recommending against community screening at this time. Concerning the Abbott ID Now tests, its use is only recommended for individuals that are sick and symptomatic.

Keywords/Definitions

- **Test Sensitivity:** the ability of a test to correctly identify those with the disease (true positive rate)
- **Test Specificity:** the ability of the test to correctly identify those without the disease (true negative rate)
- **False Negative Rate:** the proportion of true positives that yield negative testing results

Types of COVID-19 Testing

- **Abbott Test ID Now COVID-19 (10-15 minute rapid test)**
 - Abbott advises against the use of ID Now COVID-19 for community testing.
 - The sensitivity and specificity of the ID Now COVID-19 test is currently unknown, however, Tribal Nations across the country are reporting a false negative rate of up to 25%. Conducting community testing programs with a test that has an unknown sensitivity is not recommended.
- **COVID-19 RT-PCR Test (approximately 3 hours)**
 - COVID-19 PCR testing has a false negative rate of 10% to possibly as high as 35% due mainly to suboptimal sampling technique and degradation of the specimen during transport. Implementing community screening could possibly contribute to a higher false negative rate due to the increased demand on laboratory personnel. Without a clinical evaluation before the test, and clinical follow-up after test results come back, a false negative test could easily result in an infected patient not being isolated, and subsequently spreading the infection to family members and other contacts.
 - PCR testing generally provides more reliable results when compared to molecular tests like ID Now COVID-19. In the case that the infrastructure and capacity to implement community testing exists, the USET TEC recommends a drive-thru testing model using the COVID-19 PCR test with appropriate clinical support, public health follow up, and community education.




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A negative COVID-19 test is not always accurate

The limitations of testing and false negatives




Coronavirus testing is occurring throughout the country. The United South and Eastern Tribes Tribal Epidemiology Center (USET TEC) wants to inform you about the limitations of testing and false negatives.


A negative coronavirus test result has a level of uncertainty. Negative test results should be viewed with caution because sometimes a test provides a negative result even though the person has the coronavirus. Preventative measures such as handwashing and social distancing are important regardless of test results.




COVID-19 Testing



Hand Washing




Social Distancing




Face Covering

To protect healthy individuals and decrease the spread of COVID-19, USET TEC strongly recommends the use of cloth masks while in public settings.

Please visit the following link to learn how to make your own cloth masks:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>


www.TribalEpiCenters.org


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A negative COVID-19 test is not always accurate

The limitations of testing and false negatives




Community testing is occurring throughout the country as well as in Indian Country. The United South and Eastern Tribes Tribal Epidemiology Center (USET TEC) wants to inform you about the limitations of testing and false negatives. Ideally, community screening specific to COVID-19 should be conducted when accurate tests are readily available for use, and sufficient resources to provide robust monitoring and patient follow-up are in place. Currently, not all testing locations are using the most accurate tests available. It needs to be known that many negative COVID-19 test results should be evaluated with a level of uncertainty. Therefore, the USET TEC cannot recommend community screening with the current available tests at this time.


We have discovered a lack of public awareness that there are different types of COVID-19 testing. The most common is the Abbott Test: ID Now COVID-19. This test is fast, taking between 10-15 minutes for results. USET TEC and Abbott advise against the use of ID Now COVID-19 for community testing. The sensitivity and specificity of the ID Now COVID-19 test is currently unknown and this is unsettling, however, what is even more concerning is that Tribal nations across the country are reporting a false negative rate of up to 25 percent as a result of its prevalent use. Therefore, we can not support conducting community testing programs with ID Now COVID-19.

The second most common test is known as RT-PCR COVID-19. It takes approximately three hours for results and has a false negative rate of 10 to 35 percent, due mainly to suboptimal sampling technique and degradation during specimen transport. Implementing community screening could possibly contribute to a higher false negative rate due to the increased demand on laboratory personnel. Without a clinical evaluation before the test, and clinical follow-up after test results come back, a false negative test could easily result in an infected patient not being isolated, and subsequently spreading the infection to family members and other contacts.


PCR testing generally provides more reliable results when compared to molecular tests like ID Now COVID-19. In the case that the infrastructure and capacity to implement community testing exists, the USET TEC recommends a drive-thru testing model using the COVID-19 PCR test with appropriate clinical support, public health follow-up, and community education.




COVID-19 Testing



Hand Washing



Social Distancing




Face Covering

Interpreting COVID-19 Test Results and Making Informed Public Health Decisions


Due to apparent inconsistencies in the reliability and accuracy of the COVID-19 testing currently in place, positive and negative test results should be deciphered carefully to make appropriate clinical and public health related decisions. Preventive measures such as handwashing practices and social distancing should be emphasized regardless of test results to protect healthy individuals and decrease the spread of COVID-19.

Patients should also be educated on symptoms, preventive measures, and general education regarding COVID-19 to counteract the misinformation and anxiety about the disease. USET TEC can't emphasize enough that the use of cloth masks among all people while in public settings (i.e.: grocery stores, essential businesses) needs to be implemented in Indian Country to assist in decreasing the spread of COVID-19 from those who are infected but asymptomatic to those that are healthy.

Please visit the following link for more information on the use of cloth masks:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>


www.TribalEpiCenters.org

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In Process: Social Distancing, Stay at Home Orders, etc.

- Print Materials-English and Choctaw
 - Fliers
 - Door signs
- Video-English and Choctaw

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Thank you!

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