HEALTH ADVISORY: UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19
May 11, 2020

Background
The United States and Texas are experiencing ongoing community transmission of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which causes the disease COVID-19. This advisory provides guidance for healthcare providers on testing criteria and disease reporting.

COVID-19 Testing Criteria
Clinicians should use their judgment to determine if a patient has signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Asymptomatic infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has been reported. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever¹ and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing) but some people may present with other symptoms as well. Clinicians are encouraged to test for other causes of respiratory illness.

No symptoms are required for testing. If testing capacity is limited, then prioritize based on guidance by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), “Evaluating and Testing Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19),” issued May 4, 2020, and linked here.

Reporting of Cases:
COVID-19 is a notifiable condition under Texas statute. All suspected and confirmed cases are to be called immediately to the local health department. In addition, please submit lab results, demographics, and clinical progress notes via fax to:

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Epidemiology Program
Phone: (210) 207-8876 (24 hours)
Fax: (210) 207-8807