



April 9, 2020

TO: Healthcare Providers, Healthcare Facilities, Clinical Laboratories, and Local Health Departments
FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)

HEALTH ADVISORY: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)
Updated Infection Disease Requisition Form for Collection of Demographic Information

SUMMARY

- Wadsworth Center has released an updated Infectious Disease Requisition (IDR) form to improve the understanding of demographic patterns of COVID-19 infections.
- Laboratories should ensure their order requisition forms include information on both patient sex/gender identity and race/ethnicity, as well as communicate the importance of completing this information to ordering providers.

COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- Due to growing concerns about potential disparate health impacts related to COVID-19, and in order to inform the development of interventions to address any potential disparities, it is important that demographic information is collected at the time of COVID-19 testing.
- To address these concerns, Wadsworth Center has updated the [IDR form](#) to include race and ethnicity information. Healthcare providers sending specimens for testing to Wadsworth Center must use the updated IDR form going forward.
- To further the development of critical clinical and public health interventions for COVID-19, **it is essential that ordering healthcare providers complete all fields** to the best of their ability when completing any laboratory requisition form, including the sections on sex/gender identity and race/ethnicity.
- Healthcare providers must collect accurate sex and/or gender identity information when ordering a COVID-19 test, including for patients who identify as transgender and/or gender non-conforming. Where possible, gender identity information should be collected in a manner consistent with the patient's gender identity by asking a patient "Do you identify yourself as male, female, transgender or gender non-conforming?" If it is not possible to document gender identity information in a manner consistent with the patient's gender identity due to limitations in reporting forms or protocols (e.g., the laboratory order form limits options to "male," "female," and "other") healthcare providers should consult with the patient about the person's gender identity to ensure it is collected as accurately as possible.
- Clinical laboratories should also ensure their laboratory order requisition forms are updated to include information on patient sex/gender identity and race/ethnicity if they do not already include these demographics. Where possible, requisition forms for COVID-19 testing should allow for the accurate collection of sex and gender identity information, including for transgender and/or gender non-conforming patients.

RESOURCES

[NYSDOH COVID-19 Website](#)
[CDC COVID-19 Website](#)

[NYS Local Health Department Directory](#)
[World Health Organization \(WHO\) COVID-19 Website](#)