



2 July 2020

TO: Fire Management Board Members
FROM: Leon Ben Jr., Chair, Fire Management Board
SUBJECT: Updated guidance on Laboratory Testing for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

LEON BEN
Digitally signed by LEON BEN
Date: 2020.07.02 15:51:01 -06'00'

The purpose of this memo is to release updated guidance on laboratory testing for Coronavirus Disease

As of August 19, 2020, the information contained in this memo has been moved to the FMB COVID-19 website.

The website contains the most relevant and up-to-date information regarding the evolving situation and work conditions surrounding COVID-19.

**Please access the page here:
<https://www.nwcg.gov/partners/fmb/covid-19>**

best interest of both the employee and the government.

For COVID-19 testing to be effectively implemented, options for payment must be straightforward and supported by responsible incident and agency personnel. To achieve this goal, the FMB developed these recommendations to assist responsible incident management and agency employees:

- Employees should engage in daily self-screening to monitor condition, and employers will promote a reporting culture, where potential COVID-19 can be identified quickly and without adverse consequence.

- Testing should be focused on symptomatic and CDC Tier 1 exposure employees^a. Payment is the responsibility of the government when employees are advised to test by incident or agency medical/public health professionals or they meet agency specific testing criteria:
 - Testing of employees on wildfire incidents may be paid with purchase card under Agency Provided Medical Care (APMC) process or through other mechanism established by the incident.
 - Payment for testing of wildland fire employees at the home unit is the responsibility of the home unit; consult agency specific guidance and payment procedures.
 - Reasonable efforts should be made to utilize FDA approved testing.
- Wildland fire responders receiving a positive test result should adhere to Public Health recommendations and may be eligible for alternative housing arrangements paid for by the agency for up to two weeks.

Employees on an incident assignment, who are isolated while awaiting test results, will be guaranteed base hours per agency specific guidelines. FMB memoranda are available on the [website](#). This is an unprecedented time and we continue to work diligently with our interagency, state, and local partners to meet these challenges while responding to wildfires.

Attachment

Distribution:

- Fire Management Board Members
- Fire Executive Council Members
- National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group Members
- National Wildfire Coordinating Group Members
- COVID-19 Coordinators

^a CDC Critical Infrastructure Tier 1

- Coworkers identified as close contacts through case investigation and contact tracing evaluating proximity and length of contact of coworkers with the individual with COVID-19

Coworkers who work during the same shift or overlapping shifts, in the same area, for example on the same line and same room, as one or more of the workers with COVID19 based on the employer’s assessment of risk in the workplace