



Skagit County Public Health

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Submitting Specimens to the WA Public Health Lab

To Health Care Provider and Laboratory Services Partners,

The Washington Public Health Lab (WA PHL) provides services to protect and improve the health of people in Washington State, including testing for, tracking, and monitoring notifiable conditions (see the Notifiable Conditions Reporting poster for [Health Care Providers](#) and [Laboratories](#)).

To Get Approval for Testing

The first step to access testing for notifiable conditions at the WA PHL is to call the local health department where the *patient resides*. You can reach Skagit County Public Health at:

(360) 416-1500 during business hours 8:30-4:30 M-F

(360) 770-8468 after hours, urgent matters please

To reach other county health departments, see page 2 of the reporting posters for [providers](#) and [labs](#).

This phone call (1) reports a notifiable condition and (2) begins the coordination process to approve specimens and get them to WA PHL. ***Without prior approval, the specimen may be destroyed by WA PHL upon arrival.***

Routing the Specimen for Testing

Once approved, the clinician must fill out the proper requisition form for *each* specimen submitted. It is often easiest to fill this out while on the phone with SCPH. There are 5 types of requisition forms:

1. Virology/Serology/HIV
2. Bioterrorism
3. Microbiology
4. Rabies
5. Mycobacterium Isolates

To see all available testing at the WA PHL, please see the [Microbiology Testing Menu](#), accessible by going to:

1. www.doh.wa.gov
2. Click "For Public Health and Healthcare Providers"
3. Click "Public Health Laboratories"
4. Click "Microbiology Lab Test Menu"
5. Select the test of interest to read the specimen collection and submission instructions, the requisition form required, pre-approval requirements and procedures, etc

NOTE: almost all testing through PHL must be pre-approved by the local health jurisdiction in which the patient resides.

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700 South 2nd Street Room #301 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 416-1500 Fax (360) 416-1501