DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing Algorithm for Non-Austin Public Health Laboratories in Texas
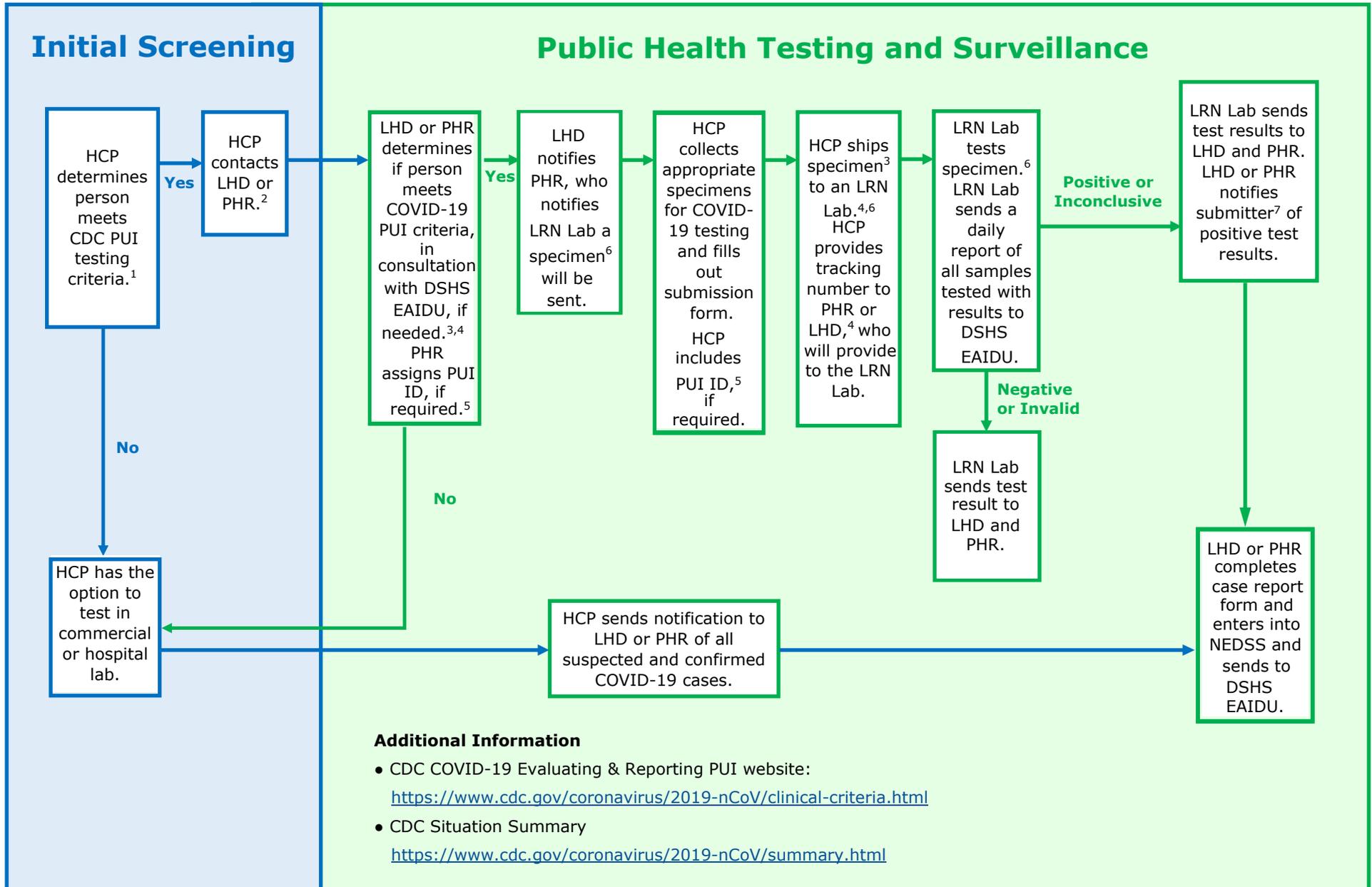
Texas Health and Human Services | **Texas Department of State Health Services**

Initial Screening

HCP determines person meets CDC PUI testing criteria.[1]

Yes → HCP contacts LHD or PHR.[2]

No ↓

HCP has the option to test in commercial or hospital lab.

Public Health Testing and Surveillance

LHD or PHR determines if person meets COVID-19 PUI criteria, in consultation with DSHS EAIDU, if needed.[3,4] PHR assigns PUI ID, if required.[5]

Yes → LHD notifies PHR, who notifies LRN Lab a specimen[6] will be sent.

No ↓ (to HCP has the option to test in commercial or hospital lab.)

HCP collects appropriate specimens for COVID-19 testing and fills out submission form. HCP includes PUI ID,[5] if required.

HCP ships specimen[3] to an LRN Lab.[4,6] HCP provides tracking number to PHR or LHD,[4] who will provide to the LRN Lab.

LRN Lab tests specimen.[6] LRN Lab sends a daily report of all samples tested with results to DSHS EAIDU.

Positive or Inconclusive → LRN Lab sends test results to LHD and PHR. LHD or PHR notifies submitter[7] of positive test results.

Negative or Invalid ↓ LRN Lab sends test result to LHD and PHR.

LHD or PHR completes case report form and enters into NEDSS and sends to DSHS EAIDU.

HCP sends notification to LHD or PHR of all suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Additional Information
- CDC COVID-19 Evaluating & Reporting PUI website:
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html
- CDC Situation Summary
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html

Acronyms: CDC - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention; DSHS - Texas Department of State Health Services; EAIDU - Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Unit; HCP - Healthcare Provider; LHD - Local Health Department; LRN - Laboratory Response Network; NEDSS - National Electronic Disease Surveillance System; PHR - Public Health Region; PUI - Person Under Investigation

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[1]PUI Testing Criteria at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html

[2] Find your Local Health Department and Public Health Region: https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/.

[3] PHR/LHD approval is needed before specimens are shipped to the appropriate Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Lab.

[4] Specimens submitted to the DSHS State Lab in Austin from another LRN jurisdiction must be approved by the PHR. Please see the **_DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Testing Algorithm for the DSHS State Lab in Austin_** for full approval process.

[5] PUI ID is assigned by the PHR. LHDs need to communicate with their PHR to get a PUI ID as some LRN Labs require a PUI ID.

[6] Find your LRN Lab at https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/eprLRNcontact.shtm.

[7] Submitter may include health care facilities and providers, among others.