



COVID-19 Digest Issue 4

May 19, 2020

CLINICAL PEARL

- Nearly 1/3 of patients in a [case series of 38 patients with COVID-19 in Hubei province, China](#) were found to **have ocular manifestations consistent with conjunctivitis, including conjunctival hyperemia, chemosis, and epiphora**. By univariate analysis, patients with ocular symptoms were more likely to have higher white blood cell and neutrophil counts and higher levels of procalcitonin, C-reactive protein, and lactate dehydrogenase than patients without ocular symptoms. Ocular findings occurred more frequently in patients with more severe disease. While viral particles have been detected in conjunctival swabs, **it is unclear whether ocular fluids contain viable, replication-competent virus or not**. [A case report from Italy](#) suggests that this may be the case, but additional studies are needed to determine the infectivity of conjunctival fluid from SARS-CoV-2-infected patients. In the meantime, it makes sense to consider ocular fluids as a potential source of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

- San Mateo County issued a [Health Alert - Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\) Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) on May 14th
 - It provides background information on several cases of a recently reported **multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C)** associated with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and a case definition for this syndrome
 - Healthcare providers should report any patient who meets the case definition to San Mateo County Communicable Disease Control Program at 650-573-2346 during business hours
- New revised San Mateo County **Health Officer orders dated May 14th:**
 - [Home isolation order](#) directing individuals in the county diagnosed with COVID-19 to isolate themselves along with home isolation instructions
 - [Home quarantine order](#) mandating individuals in the county who are close contacts of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 to quarantine themselves along with home quarantine instructions

GUIDELINES

- CDC's guidelines on specimen collection for SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic testing are as follows:
 - For initial diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2, CDC recommends collecting and testing an upper respiratory specimen. The following are acceptable specimens:
 - A nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected by a healthcare professional; or
 - An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare professional; or
 - A nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare professional or by a supervised onsite self-collection (using a flocked tapered swab); or
 - An anterior naris (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare professional or by onsite or home self-collection (using a flocked or spun polyester swab); or
 - Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) specimen collected by a healthcare professional.
 - Swabs should be placed immediately into a sterile transport tube containing 2-3mL of either viral transport medium (VTM), Amies transport medium, or sterile saline, unless using a test designed to analyze a specimen directly, (i.e., without placement in VTM), such as [some point-of-care tests](#).
 - Testing lower respiratory tract specimens is also an option. For patients who develop a productive cough, sputum should be collected and tested for SARS-CoV-2. The induction of sputum is not recommended. When under certain





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clinical circumstances (e.g., those receiving invasive mechanical ventilation), a lower respiratory tract aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage sample should be collected and tested as a lower respiratory tract specimen.

- Store specimens at 2-8°C for up to 72 hours after collection. If a delay in testing or shipping is expected, store specimens at -70°C or below.

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH PAPERS

- *Lancet*
 - [An outbreak of severe Kawasaki-like disease at the Italian epicentre of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic: an observational cohort study](#)
 - [Hyperinflammatory shock in children during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
 - [Interleukin-1 blockade with high-dose anakinra in patients with COVID-19, acute respiratory distress syndrome, and hyperinflammation: a retrospective cohort study](#)
- *Journal of Medical Virology*
 - [COVID-19 epidemic: Disease characteristics in children](#)
- *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*
 - [Managing COVID-19 Infection in pediatric patients](#)
 - [Management of patients with COPD during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- *Annals of Internal Medicine*
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Isolation From Ocular Secretions of a Patient With COVID-19 in Italy With Prolonged Viral RNA Detection](#)
 - [The Incubation Period of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) From Publicly Reported Confirmed Cases: Estimation and Application](#)
 - [Epidemiology of and Risk Factors for Coronavirus Infection in Health Care Workers](#)
- *JAMA*
 - [Characteristics of Ocular Findings of Patients With Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Hubei Province, China](#)
 - [Characteristics and Outcomes of Children With Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Infection Admitted to US and Canadian Pediatric Intensive Care Units](#)
 - [Asymptomatic Seroconversion of Immunoglobulins to SARS-CoV-2 in a Pediatric Dialysis Unit](#)
 - [SARS-CoV-2 Rates in BCG-Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Young Adults](#)
 - [Interpreting Diagnostic Tests for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- *Nature Medicine*
 - [Antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 in patients with COVID-19](#)
- *medRxiv*
 - [Saliva is more sensitive for SARS-CoV-2 detection in COVID-19 patients than nasopharyngeal swabs](#)
 - [The Possible Role of Vitamin D in Suppressing Cytokine Storm and Associated Mortality in COVID-19 Patients](#)
- *CDC Emerging Infectious Diseases*
 - [High Contagiousness and Rapid Spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2](#)
 - [Characteristics and Outcomes of Coronavirus Disease Patients under Nonsurge Conditions, Northern California, USA, March–April 2020](#)
 - [Infectious SARS-CoV-2 in Feces of Patient with Severe COVID-19](#)
 - [Detection of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 RNA on Surfaces in Quarantine Rooms](#)





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PUBLIC HEALTH, POLICY & PLANNING

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MMWR

- [Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration — United States, 2020](#)

HOT OFF THE (LAY) PRESS

- *FDA*
 - [FDA Authorizes First Diagnostic Test Using At-Home Collection of Saliva Specimens](#)
 - [FDA Authorizes First Antigen Test to Help in the Rapid Detection of the Virus that Causes COVID-19 in Patients](#)
- *STAT*
 - [Inside the NIH's controversial decision to stop its big remdesivir study](#)
- *The New York Times*
 - ['Straight-Up Fire' in His Veins: Teen Battles New Covid Syndrome](#)
 - [Abbott's Fast COVID Test Could Be Missing Cases, Study Says](#)
 - [Promising Results From Early Vaccine Tests, Drug Maker Says, Rallying Wall Street](#)
 - [At Senate Hearing, Government Experts Paint Bleak Picture of the Pandemic](#)
 - ['Lives Were Lost' as Warnings Went Unheeded, Whistle-Blower Tells House](#)
 - ['Rolling Shock' as Job Losses Mount Even With Reopenings](#)
 - [Fearing of Second Wave, Cal State Will Keep Classes Online This Fall](#)
 - [Latin America's Outbreaks Now Rival Europe's. But Its Options Are Worse.](#)
- *The New Yorker*
 - [Amid the Coronavirus Crisis, a Regimen for Reentry](#)
- *BBC*
 - [Coronavirus: Wuhan in first virus cluster since end of lockdown](#)
- *Blomberg News*
 - [Second Waves Are Plaguing Asia's Virus Recovery](#)
- *Quillette*
 - [COVID-19 Superspreader Events In 28 Countries: Critical Patterns And Lessons](#)
- *San Francisco Chronicle*
 - [BART, national transit agencies call for \\$33 billion to keep trains, buses running](#)
 - [Once united, Bay Area counties take divergent paths toward reopening](#)

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

- **US Leads the World in Confirmed COVID-19 Cases** per [Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering Dashboard Website](#)
- **California COVID-19 by the numbers** are available on the [CDPH Website](#) and the [NYT Map and Table](#) (includes data by county)
- [San Mateo County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Santa Clara County COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RESOURCES:

- [COVID-19 California Statewide Case Statistics](#)
- [Palo Alto Online tracking the coronavirus](#) in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties

