Background

Occasionally, patients who are suspected to be COVID-19 positive may have false negative lab results. In communities where there is wide-spread COVID-19 disease, manage false negative patients as COVID-19 positive regardless of whether re-testing occurs. The need for a second test should be based on your clinical judgement.

Recommendations and Rationale

- Following a negative, initial SARS-CoV-2 test, a provider may order a second test based on high clinical suspicion according to laboratory, radiographic, oxygenation, and attendant high risk of exposure (clusters).
- A second test could include Naso-pharyngeal and Oral swabs submitted in a single transport tube.
- Please follow any State specific re-testing guidance, as available.