




**Standing Delegation Order  
For  
COVID-19 Testing**

In support of Governor Greg Abbott's Report to Open Texas, and under my authority as stated in Texas Health & Safety Code, Ch. 81 and 22 Tex. Admin. Code Ch. 193, I, John Hellerstedt, M.D., Commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services, issue this standing delegation order to test all individuals who are residents or staff members of any licensed nursing facility in Texas for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, utilizing the diagnostic test known as a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction test (RT-PCR) performed by a laboratory certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) to perform high complexity testing.

The testing will be done in accordance with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) testing guidance.

This delegation order shall remain in effect until the expiration of the Governor's Disaster Declaration or until rescinded by me.

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
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John Hellerstedt, M.D.  
Commissioner of Public Health