

Sharp drop in demand seen for COVID-19 tests at private labs

April 17 2020



There has been such a drop in demand for coronavirus disease 2019

(COVID-19) tests at private labs in the United States that they have "considerable" unused capacity and can test more patients with less severe symptoms, the American Clinical Laboratory Association (ACLA) says.

Private labs conduct the vast majority of testing for COVID-19 in the United States. The number of daily tests by private labs peaked on April 5 at 108,000, dropped to 100,000 the next day, and fell from 75,000 on April 12 to 43,000 on April 13, *NBC News* reported.

There were delays and backlogs for weeks as private labs worked to boost their testing capacities, but tests ordered by doctors have been on the decline and there are no more backlogs at ACLA member labs, according to a spokesperson for the industry trade group.

Due to a shortage of testing capacity, doctors had been told to prioritize high-risk patients, [health care workers](#), and people with [severe symptoms](#), *NBC News* reported.

More information: [NBC News Article](#)

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