



Alcotest 7110 Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Intelligence Dissemination Report

New Jersey Regional Operations & Intelligence Center (ROIC), Crime Analysis Unit ~ ROIC202005-09269C

ROIC SIN: NJ-CRM-0200 (Targets/Vulnerabilities) / DHS SIN: HSEC 3.10 (Incidents)

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Key Finding

During the COVID-19 outbreak, certified Alcotest 7110 operators should conduct breath tests according to their training, with the following updated recommendations.

Recommendations

Operators **MUST** maintain control of the breath hose at all times; subjects should only touch the mouthpiece. Each subject receives a new disposable mouthpiece for each sample.

- Operators should handle the mouthpiece using the sealed bag, not touch it directly.
- Follow the CDC guidance regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) available [here](#).
- **COVID-19 Positive Subjects:**
 - Do not administer breath tests to COVID-19 positive or symptomatic subjects.
 - Charge the subject with DWI on observation alone or obtain a warrant or consent to obtain a blood test for the subject's blood alcohol content (BAC). When charging DWI based on observation only, complete a thorough, detailed report, as this will be the evidence in your case.
 - If a COVID-19 positive or symptomatic subject is in a motor vehicle crash involving death or serious bodily injury, and there is probable cause to believe the subject is impaired by alcohol/drugs, obtain a warrant or consent to obtain a blood sample.
 - Operators **MUST** clearly delineate blood samples from a COVID-19 positive subject on the evidential blood tubes and on the case history of the Evidence Receipt before submitting it to the NJSP Office of Forensic Sciences laboratory system.
 - After subjects who are COVID-19 positive or symptomatic deliver breath samples, quarantine the Alcotest for 28 days, allowing any live virus to die before its next use.
 - Operators **MUST** email NJSP Sgt. Kevin Alcott of the Alcohol/Drug Test Unit (Kevin.Alcott@njsp.org) and Deputy Attorney General Robyn Mitchell (mitchellr@njdcj.org) when a COVID-19 subject provides samples on the Alcotest.
- **Alcotest Processing Room Cleaning:**
 - Only certified operators should clean/disinfect the Alcotest.
 - Avoid wiping or cleaning any part of the Alcotest unapproved by the Alcotest Operator's Manual and the manufacturer's instructions, available [here](#).
 - Failing to follow the manufacturer's instructions could damage the instrument irreparably.
 - Common disinfectant fumes increase the likelihood of an ambient air fail or interferent detected.
 - Let all cleansers dry thoroughly and all fumes dissipate before using the Alcotest.
 - Wait at least 20 minutes after using hand sanitizer to operate the test.



Source: Law Enforcement Information

Source Reliability: Completely Reliable

Contributing Agency: New Jersey State Police

Dissemination: New Jersey Law Enforcement

Contact Information

Any agency with Alcotest-related questions should contact Lt. Thomas Snyder #5792 of the Alcohol Drug Testing Unit at (609) 947-6695 or Thomas.Snyder@njsp.org.

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