

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### C&W Laboratory Testing Update

Dear colleagues,

We would like to alert you to some changes in lab testing at our site. As COVID-19 cases increase and the virus begins to spread locally, individual handling of samples from such patients is no longer effective. We have therefore revised testing throughout the lab to **universally** handle specimens safely, irrespective of their COVID-19 status.

Firstly, please implement isolation precautions as per the most recent IPAC guidelines. If testing is needed for medical decisions, order as required. COVID-19 testing is available for patients who are hospitalized or are likely to be hospitalized (e.g. immunocompromised patients), and **notification of the microbiologist is no longer needed, as of noon, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Following modification of our accessioning process, we can now **accept samples via the pneumatic tube**. To maintain safety, improperly packaged samples will be handled in the biological safety cabinet. To avoid significant delays in testing, please ensure that your samples are sent in the required zip-lock bags.

There are a small number of tests which are difficult to manage universally, and **consultation** may be required to coordinate safe and timely testing. A list of tests at our site which are impacted by the pandemic is attached below.

As always, the medical microbiologist on call is available 24/7 to assist with complex cases.

Regards,

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## C&W Tests Affected by COVID-2019 Pandemic

As of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Subject to change.

Test	Routine?	Sample/comment
<b>Hematopathology, TM*</b>		
CBC, differential, slide review	✓	Lavender top EDTA tube <b>Vacutainers preferred</b> over microtainers if possible
Coagulation testing	✓	Blue top Citrate tube
Platelet function and unstable Hb testing	✗	Consult Hematopathologist to coordinate handling
Lymphocyte stimulation testing	✗	Consult Hematopathologist to coordinate patient evaluation and special handling.
Donath-Landsteiner, cold agglutinin titer, isoagglutinin titer	✗	Consult Hematopathologist
<b>Biochemistry</b>		
All tests	✓	Precautions in place.
<b>Microbiology</b>		
Influenza / RSV NAT	✓	Nasopharyngeal flocked swab in UTM. Available until the end of Influenza/RSV season.
Respiratory NAT Panel	✓	Nasopharyngeal flocked swab in UTM, BAL. Available for sick, complex or immunocompromised patients.
COVID NAT	✓	Nasopharyngeal flocked swab in UTM. Sputum, trach aspirate, or BAL in sterile container will be run if submitted.
Viral Loads (CMV, EBV, BKV, Adeno)	✓	Red top tube CMV to be run Mon, Thurs, temporarily
Chlamydia, GC, Trich NAT	✓	Swab or urine in UVE tube Temporarily increased turnaround time (2-4 days)
Enterovirus NAT	✓ ✗	CSF approved. Skin, stool, consult Microbiologist.
<b>Molecular and Cytogenetics</b>		
Karyotyping	✗	Consult Genetic Scientist to coordinate if age >7days
Prenatal genetic testing	✗	Consult Genetic Scientist to coordinate if patient has fever or resp tract infection
<b>Biochemical Genetics</b>		
Skin biopsy fibroblast culture	✗	Consult Biochemical Geneticist
<b>Pathology</b>		
AP fluids, cytology, frozen sections	✓	Sterile container
Surgical specimens	✓	Sterile container or Formalin
Autopsies	✓	
<b>Prenatal screening</b>	✓	Process updated, approved
<b>Newborn Screening</b>	✓	Blood spot card, approved

\*Note in some cases turnaround time may be affected by changes in handling

### Version History

DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE	ACTION TAKEN
20-Mar-2020	C-0506-14-60574 COVID-19 C&W Lab Testing Update	Developed by CW Laboratory & Pathology Medicine; Approved by Professional Practice Director

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