



**The Pathology Laboratory**  
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March 16, 2020

**To: All Clients**  
**Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) update**

**\*\*\*\* Please continue to look for updates on our website under the News and Events Tab\*\*\*\***

As you all know, the Coronavirus has forced us to make changes to routine processes. While it is important to accommodate our clients and patients in the best way possible, some necessary changes will begin at The Path Lab on **Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. These changes will include:

- 1. Symptomatic patients.** These patient specimens will be collected outside The Path Lab. We ask that you share this information with your patients and have them call us to make arrangements to collect their specimen outside the building. 337.436.9557
- 2. Draw stations.** We have closed both our **Nelson and Moss Bluff** locations. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you. This allows us to be more prepared to better serve you at the Main Lab location on Lake Street.
- 3. Vendors.** Vendor visits will not be allowed at The Path Lab during this time.
- 4. Semen collection.** Semen specimens must be collected offsite and brought to The Path Lab for testing.
- 5. Drug Screen Collection.** If patient is symptomatic, specimen will not be collected at this time. Patient may return for collection 24 hours after symptoms are gone.
- 6. Urinalysis.** If patient is symptomatic, collection should be performed at doctor's office or home and brought to The Path Lab for testing.
- 7. Coronavirus testing.** Coronavirus specimens may now be tested at LabCorp and Quest Diagnostics. Estimated turnaround time is 48 hours from the time it is set up by the reference lab. Total time appears to be 96 hours once the specimen is received by the Pathology Lab. Billing is handled by either submitting insurance or bill to client. These reference labs do not require approval for testing; however, they do ask clients to follow the current CDC guidelines for screening patients before ordering the test. The most current CDC guidelines and recommendations are available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).
- 8. Required media for collection kits.** We have seen a reduced supply of M4 viral media required to collect specimens for Coronavirus testing. **As of Monday, March 16th, Quest is able to perform testing on sputum specimens;** however, we ask you to please use the M4 media and swab collection kits first to allow Quest to work out any issues with sputum testing. Collection is in a sterile cup and must be refrigerated immediately, stable for 72 hours before testing. Ideally, it should be frozen at -70°C, if possible. Follow CDC guidelines for proper collection of a sputum specimen.
- 9. Quest courier pick up from The Path Lab.** Quest picks up from the Main Lab at 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Our goal is to get these specimens out on these runs daily to provide you with the best turn around time. Please keep the pick-up times in mind when collecting a specimen for Quest.

**Please remember that all of these precautionary changes are temporary. The Path Lab appreciates your cooperation and commitment to promote good health.** If you have any questions, please contact Nicho Bourque at [nbourque@thepathlab.com](mailto:nbourque@thepathlab.com) or 337.312.1280.

*“Providing High Quality Pathology Services, With Superior Customer Satisfaction”*