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To: All Clients

Re: Gold Standard Testing for COVID-19

Not all COVID-19 tests are created equal. Sensitivity and Specificity are essential to us!

Why Molecular RT-PCR Testing?

This test detects the virus at its EARLIEST stages by detecting its genetic information (RNA) in minimal amounts. The Path Lab uses the **ThermoFisher Applied Biosystems TaqPath™ COVID-19 Combo Kit**, the Gold Standard PCR testing method that detects three coronavirus genes: *orf-1ab*, gene for the spike (S) protein, and gene for the nucleocapsid (N) protein.

We offer a 24-hour turnaround time of results.

Why Antigen testing?

This test is cost-effective and provides a quick turnaround time; however, the trade-off for speed and convenience is Sensitivity. Because the antigen test requires a higher viral load to yield a positive result, someone who tests negative with an antigen test may have an active COVID-19 infection. That same person may take an antigen test the next day and get a positive result, simply because they have more of the virus in their system.

NOTICE: The Path Lab does NOT offer Antigen testing.

Why Antibody testing?

Antibody testing is a blood test that does not detect the active virus in the body, but instead detects the presence of antibodies indicating a recent or prior COVID-19 infection. The Path Lab performs the **Roche Diagnostics Elecsys Anti-SARS-CoV-2 test**, which is a highly accurate serology test. It provides 99.8% Specificity, which is much greater than many other available antibody tests.

When it comes to COVID-19 testing, your choice of test type is usually a choice between accuracy and speed. It is important to fully understand the tests available and to use the right one at the right time. To better understand the different types of testing offered, please go to our website at www.thepathlab.com. Click on the *News and Events* tab, and choose **COVID-19 FAQs**.

If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Leger at nleger@thepathlab.com or 337.312.1256.

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