



**The Pathology Laboratory**  
830 West Bayou Pines Dr.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(337) 436-9557 Fax (337) 312-1311  
www.thepathlab.com

Lehrue Stevens, Jr., M.D., Emeritus  
Gault Townsend, M.D., Emeritus  
Regina Burton, M.D.

Paula Eapen, M.D.  
Brandi Kelly, M.D.  
Thad Primeaux, M.D.

Stephanie Richard, M.D.  
Robert Rumsey, M.D.  
John VanHoose, M.D.

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**To: All Clients**

**Re: Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Antibody and Swab testing**

*Which test do I order?* This seems to be the question lately. Some airlines and hospitals require PCR before travel or surgery. According to the SARS Reference Panel Comparative Data from the FDA, our NAAT methodology is more sensitive than our PCR methods. Both NAAT and PCR methods are excellent methods to detect SARS-CoV-2 virus.

### **COVID SWAB TESTING**

Did you know we have three instruments that provide Covid-19 swab testing?

- |                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Thermofisher Quant Studio 5 | PCR Method  |
| 2. Hologic Panther             | NAAT Method |
| 3. BD Max                      | PCR Method  |

Getting reagents for these three instruments continue to be a struggle. We often find ourselves changing orders from one instrument to another based on which reagent is readily available.

Clients often order Covid-19 PCR as default. *If you are doing so, please change to Covid swab. Order Covid PCR when **PCR is required**.*

Interfaced orders will be a little tricky. *If the methodology is not important and your test code name is Covid PCR, please change the test name to Covid swab.*

**\*\*IF A METHOD IS NOT SPECIFIED WHEN ORDERING A COVID-19 SWAB, WE WILL CHOOSE ACCORDING TO REAGENT AVAILABILITY.\*\***

**Please allow 48 hours before calling for COVID results. We are resulting hundreds of COVID tests each day. When both clients and patients call the lab for their results, it delays testing even more. We appreciate your help with this matter.**

## **COVID ANTIBODY TESTING**

The Path Lab offers a total IgM/IgG antibody by Chemiluminescence method using Roche equipment. It provides 99.8% specificity, which means the kit's likelihood of reacting with other SARS viruses is minimal. We do not offer IgM/IgG results individually. Those orders will be sent out. The CDC suggests a specificity of at least 99.5%. We chose this method of testing using CDC guidelines.

## **CDC GUIDELINES FOR ANTIBODY TESTING**

IGM and IGG antibodies can arise nearly simultaneously in serum within 2 to 3 weeks after onset of illness. Detection of IgM without IGG is uncommon. The detection of IgM antibody response is not well defined at present.

Current antibody testing by itself should not be used to establish the presence or absence of SARS-CoV-2 infection. It may be offered in addition to viral swab or antigen testing.

Antibody orders for testing will be handled accordingly. If you have an interface order code, please verify that the test code names are listed below, so testing will be performed as you expect.

- Total SARS Ab           **performed in-house**
- SARS AB                 **performed in-house**
- SARS IGM/IGG         **performed in-house**
- SARS IgM AB           **sent to Quest**
- SARS IgG AB           **sent to Quest**
- SARS IgG AB           **sent to Quest**

## **COMING SOON!**

**Current antibody testing is used to detect naturally exposed individuals by detecting the Nucleocapsid protein. We are working with Roche Diagnostics, which has been working closely with Moderna Inc., to soon offer a total IgM/IgG semi-quantitative antibody test to detect the Spike protein that is positive in vaccinated patients.**

Please see our website for more information about our lab. [www.thepathlab.com](http://www.thepathlab.com).

If you have any questions, please contact Nicho Bourque at [nbourque@thepathlab.com](mailto:nbourque@thepathlab.com) or 337.312.1280.