

## *Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum*

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To: Physicians and Health Service Directors, Central Zone

From: Irene Sadek, Department Head CZ PLM  
Anita Muise, Administrative Director CZ PLM

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject: **Suspension of some Diagnostic Services for COVID-19 Third Wave**

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Effective immediately, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PLM) in Central Zone will enact our business continuity planning due to an unprecedented increase in demand for services related to COVID-19 testing.

The following list of services will be suspended for two weeks then reassessed:

- Autopsy service
- Male fertility testing
- Hemoglobin A1C
- RBC Folate
- Fecal Occult Blood
- Urinalysis\*\* – see exception below
- Antibody titres
- Cold agglutinins
- Thermal amplitudes
- Decreased frequency in routine HLA antibody testing
- Delay in non-urgent molecular testing reporting

Note: Separate memo distributed identifying suspension in some Microbiology testing

In addition we encourage frontline clinicians to reduce the ordering of laboratory testing by limiting to testing required for immediate diagnosis or management of chronic illness. Blood work that does not fit in the criteria above should not be ordered at this time. If patients have been issued requisitions, and the testing is non-urgent, please advise them to delay booking appointments until regular laboratory service is reinstated.

Review of inpatients' standing orders is recommended in an effort to reduce the volume of blood collection and testing.

\*\* Exception: patient requires a urinalysis due to an acute kidney condition, please indicate on the requisition: "DO NOT CANCEL urinalysis as the patient has an acute kidney condition"

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and cooperation. **If there are circumstances that you believe require any of the above specimens to be processed please contact the Technical Manager or Division Head for the respective discipline.**