

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Physicians and Health Service Directors, Central Zone

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

Date: May 25, 2021

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

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PLM) in Central Zone has enacted our business continuity planning due to an unprecedented increase in demand for services related to COVID-19 testing. The following revised list of services are suspended for an additional two weeks, and then reassessed.

- Male fertility testing
 - RBC Folate
 - Fecal Occult Blood
 - Urinalysis* (exception below)
 - Antibody titres
 - Cold agglutinins
 - Thermal amplitudes
 - Decreased frequency in routine HLA antibody testing
 - Delay in non-urgent molecular testing reporting
 - Reporting of routine Pap smears will be delayed
- Note: Previous memo Apr 23/21 identifying suspension in some Microbiology testing is unchanged

Note: Autopsy service and A1C testing have been reinstated effective May 25, 2021.

In addition frontline clinicians are encouraged to reduce the ordering of laboratory testing by limiting to testing required for immediate diagnosis or management of chronic illness (including A1C). 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 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.**