

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: December 21, 2021

Subject: **Additional Changes in Laboratory Testing During COVID-19 Fourth Wave**

Due to the continued increase in demand for services related to COVID-19 testing we again ask that health care providers carefully consider delaying routine testing until a later date to alleviate the pressure in the laboratory and at blood collection centres during the fourth wave.

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PLM) in Central Zone continues to enact our business continuity planning resulting in significant **delays in turnaround times (TAT)** for the following tests:

- Routine Pap screening
- Serum protein electrophoresis
- Serum immunofixation electrophoresis
- Serum free light chains
- Toxicology testing for:
 - Clozapine
 - Lamotrigine
 - Catecholamines
 - Clobazam
 - Medical urine drug screens

The following test will be suspended:

- Male fertility testing

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.