

## **AmPath Laboratories COVID-19 sample collection and testing:**

Due to the COVID-19 surge in infections, our sample collection sites and testing laboratories have rapidly reached capacity. Hence to be able to give a good COVID-19 test turn-around-time for high risk patients, with immediate effect, we will only be collecting samples and testing for COVID-19 from the following patients who are referred by a healthcare professional:

- 1. Hospital In-patients**
- 2. Health Care Workers**
- 3. Pre-Admission testing**
  - Allow up to 96 hours TAT
- 4. Symptomatic out-patients**
  - Symptoms include:
    - Fever
    - Dry cough
    - Shortness of breath
    - Diarrhoea and/or vomiting
    - Sore throat
    - Acute loss of sense of smell and/or taste
    - Body aches/pains and fatigue
    - Headache
- 5. Vulnerable / high risk patients with comorbidities:**
  - Patients over the age of 60
  - Comorbid disease in all ages includes:
    - Any condition in which the immune system is compromised
    - Cancer patients
    - Diabetic patients
    - Hypertensive patients
    - Any underlying cardiac disease
    - Any underlying lung disease.

**Until further notice, we will be unable to offer COVID-19 sample collection and testing for the following patients:**

- **Self-referred patients**
- **Out-patients with no symptoms (asymptomatic), even if exposed to positive cases**
  - Self-quarantine for 14 days
  - If symptoms develop during quarantine consult with your doctor
- **Re-testing of COVID-19 positive patients after completing self-isolation**
  - Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic – self-isolate for 14 days from onset of symptoms or sample collection

- Severely symptomatic – self-isolate for 14 days from stabilisation of symptoms
- No re-testing is necessary at the end of your self-isolation period
- **Return to work screening for non-essential services**
  - Employers must follow the Department of Labour return-to-work regulations w.r.t. COVID-19 Risk assessment, Daily Employee screening and Health and Safety risk reducing practices
  - Only symptomatic employees will be tested
  - No COVID-19 re-testing will be performed after self-isolation for COVID-19 positive employees
- **Workplace mass testing**
- **Persons having had low risk contact**

**Warning signs and symptoms of severe disease:**

If you develop any of these signs or symptoms and suspect that you might have COVID 19, please consult with your doctor or report to your nearest hospital. Please phone in advance to ensure that they have all precautions in place prior to your arrival. Please do not come to the laboratory for testing before seeking assistance from your doctor or a hospital. Your test will be sent in from the doctor or hospital and prioritized accordingly in the laboratory.

- Respiratory rate >25 breaths/minute
- Pulse rate >120 beats/minute
- Temperature >39°C
- Confusion, drowsiness, altered mental status.
- Difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent chest pain or pressure

We are increasing our testing capacity as much as possible on an urgent basis. As soon as this capacity has improved, we will return to an appropriate expanded testing programme again.

Yours in Healthcare

The AMPATH Covid-19 Task Team