



Laboratory testing in suspected COVID-19 patients

Please note that **all** laboratory test sampling for patients with suspected COVID-19 should be performed by the patient's clinical team, not the Pathlab Collections staff. This includes phlebotomy, nasopharyngeal swabs, wound swabs, etc.

During any one shift, collections staff sample many different patients from all areas of the hospital. Even with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), this represents a significant infection control risk.

In order to minimise the number of people in close contact with a suspected COVID-19 case, sampling should be performed by one of the patient's nurses or doctors.

Laboratory request forms for patients with suspected COVID-19 should not be left out for Pathlab Collections staff. This sampling will not be performed.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact us.

Michael Addidle
Clinical Microbiologist

Tracey Mayall
Lead of Specialty, Patient Services

CLINICAL UPDATE

Please ensure all members of your institution receive a copy of this clinical update.