



DATE: 4/25/2020

TO: SHA Staff and Clinicians

FROM: Dr. Jessica Minion – Clinical Lead Public Health Laboratory

RE: STI Screening Specimens – Conservation of Aptima® MultiTest swabs for COVID-19

One of the alternative options for collecting throat/nares specimens for COVID-19 testing is the Aptima® MultiTest or Unisex Swab Specimen Collection Kit (see attached). These kits are traditionally used to collect vaginal, rectal, or throat swabs for the diagnosis of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, and *Trichomonas vaginalis*.

We are asking that until further notice, when screening **symptomatic** patients for these sexually transmitted infections, you **ONLY SUBMIT URINE SPECIMENS** in order to conserve the supply of the Aptima® MultiTest /Unisex swabs.

Additionally, to prioritize laboratory resources, we are also asking that routine screening of asymptomatic patients be temporarily suspended.

Thank you for your cooperation.