



DATE: 8/4/2020
TO: SHA Staff and Practitioners
FROM: Laboratory Medicine - Microbiology
RE: COVID-19 Testing Turnaround Times

As testing for COVID-19 increases in the province, we are committed to maintaining a turnaround time of <24 hours between the time a specimen is received at the Saskatoon or RRPL Laboratory and the time the result is reported. To date, this has been maintained throughout the pandemic.

Another service guarantee that we have made is that any specimen received at RRPL before 1:00pm will have results reported by the end of that same day. Due to the increased volumes we are receiving, we are no longer able to accommodate this.

In an effort to concentrate on maintaining a 24 hour turnaround time for all COVID-19 test results, **specimens received prior to 1:00pm may not have results reported by the end of that same day.** They will, however, have results reported before 1:00pm the following day (i.e. within 24 hours).

We will continue to prioritize specimens that are labeled STAT for the following indications:

- STAT ICU: for patients admitted to a critical care ward
- STAT Inpatient: for patients admitted to hospital or are acutely ill in the Emergency Dept
- STAT LTC: for patients living in long term care or personal care homes
- STAT HCW: for healthcare workers or other essential service workers
- STAT MHQ: for urgent public health investigations

Please use these STAT requests judiciously for situations where more timely results will have a significant impact on the control of the virus or management of the patient.

Tx
Dr. Jessica Minion
Dr. Harry Deneer
Dr. Joe Blondeau

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