



Monash Pathology

GP Newsletter

March 27th 2020

Coronavirus Update: COVID-19 Testing On-Site at Clayton

With the COVID-19 outbreak characterised as a global pandemic, this has no doubt caused increased concern within the community. However, it is a reminder that we need to take this rapidly evolving situation seriously.

As such Monash Health continues to prepare to support patients and the community throughout this crisis. These measures go beyond anything we have experienced before and we are working hard to be prepared. Our operations teams have been planning for various scenarios and the work is well advanced.

Monash Pathology is now conducting testing for COVID-19 on-site at our Clayton Laboratory.

To increase our capacity for testing and ensure results are available as quickly as possible, we have increased laboratory staffing, purchased more analysers and extended laboratory hours for our Microbiology Molecular PCR Laboratory.

Monash Health has also established Fever Clinics adjacent to Monash Medical Centre, Casey Hospital and Dandenong Hospital. Our COVID-19 testing resources are limited, so to ensure we use resources available for those most in need, we will only test those who meet the testing criteria. This includes **symptoms AND situation requirements**.

All measures undertaken are reviewed and updated as this situation evolves and new advice comes to light. Please regularly visit the Department of Health and Human Services website for the latest updates, including advice on symptoms and precautions.

Testing

Our Microbiology Molecular lab is now performing testing for COVID-19 **24/7**.

Testing is conducted on our existing PCR analysers and new Multiplex which is in set-up stage.

The **COVID-19 test is now part of our Respiratory PCR Panel**, which includes the tests listed below, providing a comprehensive testing panel to support diagnosis and patient treatment;

Influenza A virus, Influenza B virus, Respiratory Syncytial virus, Human Parainfluenza Viruses (types 1, 2, 3, 4), Rhinovirus/Enterovirus, Adenovirus, Human Metapneumovirus, B. Pertussis, SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

Reporting of results

Results will be available within **24 hours**.

There is currently no change in results delivery for COVID-19 results. Positive and negative results will be notified as per appropriate standard reporting procedures.

Reminder: collection requirements and transport protocols

Hand Hygiene should be performed before donning **PPE**, including gown, gloves, eye protection and mask.

Specimens Required for Testing:

- Collect one nasopharyngeal flocked swab with red-top UTM (Universal Transport Media).

Current guidelines recommend standard protocols for sample packaging and transport of samples for COVID-19.

Swabs are not required to be sent double bagged or in eskies. A single bag is acceptable and use standard PPE when handling (eg. gloves/gown).

Specimens to be collected and transported at room temperature, and are to be sent with a normal courier run.

Specimens are stable for up to 48 hours at room temperature.

Please ensure you are sending all your requests through to Monash Pathology, not direct to VIDRL.



Monash Pathology will continue to keep you updated as the requirements for collection, transport and testing evolve.

Expertise and advice

Our Pathologists and Scientific staff are available any time to assist with pathology reports or referrals. Please contact us at 9594 4538 or email pathology@monashhealth.org.

Key contacts

Natalie Soucek
Client Relationship Manager
0418 179 289

Rhiannon Bentley
Pre-Analytical Manager
9594 4973

Kristy De George
Director of Pathology (acting)
9594 3479