

Monash Pathology

GP Newsletter

May 11th 2020



Pathology Services Update – What’s New, What’s Changed

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Over the past fortnight, in response to the state government’s COVID-19 screening blitz, we have seen a dramatic increase in testing. Our Molecular PCR Laboratory at Clayton is still operating 24/7. Our most vulnerable patients including **ICU patients, inpatients** and **A&E patients**, are tested **on-site at Clayton**. In order to conserve testing kits for these patients, some other samples are sent to VIDRL in Melbourne for testing, including healthcare workers and Fever Clinics. Healthcare workers are prioritised where possible.

As the situation can change rapidly, please contact our Client Relationship Manager Natalie Soucek on 0418 179 289 if you have any questions about results turn-around time.

As always, to ensure you are working to the most up-to-date advice please continue to regularly visit the Department of Health and Human Services website for the latest updates and resources, including case definition, pandemic plan and checklists.

Reminders: COVID-19 collection, transport, testing and results

Collection

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

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

Other swabs are being accepted by the lab for COVID-19 testing and include **white eSwabs, pink top** and **green top** swabs.

Adding to our coronavirus screening clinics at Clayton, Dandenong, Berwick and Cranbourne, Monash Health have opened an additional clinic at **Pakenham, Henty Way**, open **Monday-Friday 8:30am – 4pm**.

Transport

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 (stable for up to 48 hours), and are to be sent with a normal courier run.

Testing

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

The **COVID-19 test is part of our Respiratory PCR Panel**, which includes the tests listed below, providing a comprehensive testing panel;

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).

Results

When tested at Monash Pathology, results will be available within **24 hours** from receipt in the laboratory.

When samples are tested at VIDRL most results will be available within **72 hours**.

Positive results are phoned to the contact number indicated on the request form, and automatically notified to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Negative results are notified to the patient via text message from Monash Health, sent hourly.

For healthcare workers and Fever Clinic patients - if no notification has been received at **5 days** after collection, please contact **9594 6230 between 8.00am and 5.00pm** or email feedback@monashhealth.org.

Drive-in flu vaccinations available

Monash Health, in collaboration with Monash Council, have opened the Monash Drive-In Vaccination Service. This full-service drive-in vaccination clinic is located at **Monash Hall, 264 Clayton Road, Clayton** and is open to the community.

How it works:

- Those seeking an immunisation will drive under the marquee and park their car
- A Monash Health team member will then approach the car and with a QR code or url the recipient will enter their details into a secured REDcap survey
- The immunisation will then be given. If children are unable to be immunised in the car they may need to be immunised in the hall
- The recommended 15-minute supervised wait following a vaccination will take place in the 8-9 car bays set aside for the purpose. Patients will have their treatment and then wait in their car, with a nurse able to see them while they remain on site.

Opening hours are currently **Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 3.00pm**.

Please visit the Department of Health and Human Services website for more information about testing locations and requirements.

Collection Centres re-opening

Our collection rooms at **Jessie McPherson Private Hospital** are now open. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm, and Saturdays 8:00am - 2:00pm.

In addition our **Dandenong** and **Casey** rooms will be re-opening on **May 25th 2020**.

For a full list of our collection centres and their opening hours please visit our website at <https://monashpathology.org/>.

Monash Pathology has a new logo

Monash Pathology are excited to announce our new logo, with links to Monash Health and the Monash Health iCare values – Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect and Excellence.



Monash Pathology will continue to keep you updated as the requirements for coronavirus (COVID-19) 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

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