

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

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ALERT: Update on SARS-CoV-2 Testing

Beginning March 16, 2020, testing for SARS-CoV-2, the etiologic agent of COVID-19, will follow one of two paths; one for inpatients/ER patients, the other for ambulatory patients. Samples from inpatient/ED patients will be tested in-house, within the Diagnostic Molecular Biology Division of the NMH Clinical Laboratory. Samples from ambulatory patients will be referred to Quest Diagnostics.

Both inpatient and ambulatory patient tests are lab-developed and PCR-based. Both have been authorized for emergency use by the FDA. Because reagents and/or equipment that are not FDA-approved are used for testing, results should be used adjunctively. Validation/verification studies have been performed and reviewed, and the performances of the tests are considered acceptable for patient testing.

Test Name:	Inpatient/ER: Coronavirus (2019-nCov19) by PCR (NMH/LFH) - LAB14518 Ambulatory: SAR-COV-2 RNA, Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR - LAB14516
Test Code:	Inpatient/ER: CORVPCR Ambulatory: COV19
CPT Code:	Inpatient/ER: U0001 Ambulatory: U0002
Turnaround Time:	Inpatient/ER: 24 hours Ambulatory: 48 to 72 hours
Sample Requirement:	One nasopharyngeal and one oropharyngeal swab in M4, VCM or UTM media, or Bronchial lavage/wash or nasopharyngeal aspirate/wash or sputum/tracheal aspirate in a sterile, plastic, leak-proof container.
Result Reporting:	Results will be reported as follows: Coronavirus nCOV-19 Detected Coronavirus nCOV-19 Not detected Coronavirus nCOV-19 Indeterminate

Contact: Questions or concerns should be directed to: Lawrence Jennings, MD, Medical Director, Diagnostic Molecular Biology, 312.695.1719, or Amir Behdad, MD, Medical Director, Referred Testing, 312.926.7947.