CARPHA/SDPC/LSN/025/20
Chief Medical Officers
Laboratory Directors
National Epidemiologists

1st April 2020

Dear CMOs, Laboratory Directors and National Epidemiologists,

LABORATORY UPDATE 8: COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

This is an update to the COVID-19 Laboratory Update 7 circulated on 31st March 2020.

Please be advised that following recent scientific guidance and consultations with PAHO/WHO clinical advisors, CARPHA has increased the time period of date of onset for sampling suspect cases of COVID-19.

REVISED REQUIREMENT:

Nasopharyngeal swabs can now be collected up to ten (10) days following the onset of symptoms.

Specimen Requirements: Nasopharyngeal swabs (Dacron or polyester flocked) in Viral or Universal Transport Media, collected up to 10 days from date of onset of symptoms.

REMINDERS FOR COVID-19:

Kindly note, fever is considered present when the temperature reading is greater than 37.8°C or 100.1 F.

Turnaround Time: 24 – 48 hours after receipt of samples by CMML

For further guidance please contact us at escobaga@carpha.org or +1 868 324-0869

Please visit our dedicated web page for the most recent updates at http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Joy St. John
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Gabriel González-Escobar, Head, Laboratory Services and Networks (LSN)
Dr. Lisa Indar, Assistant Director, Surveillance, Disease Prevention & Control Division (SDPC)