Dear CMOs, Laboratory Directors and National Epidemiologists,

LABORATORY UPDATE 10: COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) RE-TESTING HOSPITALIZED CASES FOR DISCHARGE

This is an update to the COVID-19 Laboratory Update 9 also circulated on April 3, 2020.

The following guidance is provided for all clinicians involved in the clinical management of hospitalized persons with COVID-19 infection. The flowchart in Figure 1 below describes the sampling strategy to be employed for determining when to discharge a patient.

**Figure 1. SARS-CoV-2 Sampling Strategy for Re-Testing Hospitalized Cases for Discharge**

Day 0: Sample taken for COVID-19 investigation (positive laboratory result) Patient is hospitalized immediately/subsequently

Day 15 – 20: First sample taken for re-testing, patient being considered for discharge

Is the sample negative for SARS-CoV-2?

- Yes
- No

On Day 7: Second sample taken for re-testing.

Day 1 (24 hours later): Second sample taken for re-testing.

Repeat the sampling cycle every 7 days until there is a negative result.

Is the 2nd sample negative for SARS-CoV-2?

- Yes
- No

Discharge patient
REMINDEERS FOR COVID-19:

**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**.

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](http://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus)

Yours Sincerely,

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Executive Director

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