Dear CMOs, Laboratory Directors and National Epidemiologists,

LABORATORY UPDATE 4: COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

This is an update to the COVID-19 Laboratory Update 3 circulated on 12th March 2020.

Please be advised that ALL samples which meet the criteria for a suspect or probable case in accordance with the WHO case definition for COVID-19 will be tested for CARPHA Member States.

The updated case definition as of March 3, 2020 is as follows:

**Suspect case**
A. Patients with severe acute respiratory illness (fever, and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease (e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND with no other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation AND a history of travel to or residence in a country/area or territory reporting local transmission of COVID-19 during the last 14 days prior to symptom onset OR

B. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms OR

C. A patient with severe acute respiratory infection (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND requiring hospitalization AND with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation.

**Probable case**
A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive.

**Confirmed case**
A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.
**REMINDERS:**

**Specimen Requirements:** Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swabs (Dacron or polyester flocked) in Viral or Universal Transport Media, collected up to 5 days from Date of Onset (DOO) of symptoms.

For further guidance please contact us at [escobaga@carpha.org](mailto:escobaga@carpha.org) or **+1 868 324-0869**

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

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,

![Signature]

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Executive Director

cc: Dr. Gabriel González-Escobar, Head, Laboratory Services and Networks (LSN)  
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