

News

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

Conservation of Microbiology Resources during COVID-19 Emergency

Effective immediately, the Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratories at University of Colorado Hospital are implementing a plan to conserve critical laboratory resources including supplies and technologist time in response to surge requirements due to CoVid-19.

The following procedures will be implemented now:

- Multiple specimens from the same operative site: no more than 4 sample containers will be accepted. The operative team must combine or pool tissues, biopsies, etc. as appropriate for the patient case. A “container” refers to a sterile cup, E-swab, syringe, etc. If there are questions about how or what to pool, Microbiology Laboratory medical directors are available during business hours. Infectious Diseases consultants are also available for questions.
 - For all orthopedic cases, AFB and Fungal cultures will be individually reviewed by Infectious Diseases and may be cancelled or limited.
 - For all other surgical services, AFB and Fungal cultures on multiple specimens will be pooled.
 - Please contact the Microbiology Laboratory directly if you have questions or feel there are necessary exceptions to this policy. These requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- DELAYS: Critical test results will continue to be handled as usual at this time. Non-critical-for-life test results may be delayed. We appreciate your patience. Examples of non-critical-for-life testing could include GI PCR testing and Respiratory Viral PCR panels, etc., during peak surge times.

We are committed to providing the highest quality of care for each patient. We will not sacrifice these standards due to the current pandemic circumstances.

Please call the University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Laboratory Microbiology Department at 720-848-7084 with any questions.