



MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4-8-2020

TO: NPL Clients

FROM: Rhonda Burgard, MPA, MT (ASCP) BB Client Services Supervisor

RE: Supply Availability

Because of the recent COVID-19 pandemic some laboratory supplies and reagents are becoming difficult to obtain and/or are being triaged to states with a high incidence of COVID-19 infection.

Blood gas testing supplies are beginning to be in short supply. With the large number of patients on respirators nationwide, this is not unexpected. Please check your inventory of blood gas cartridges and consider re-ordering sooner than you normally would. There may be delays in obtaining additional testing cartridges. Also, if you are out of testing cartridges and are unable to perform blood gas testing have a back-up plan in place for where to obtain more supplies, an alternate testing location and/or plan for patient diversion.

Universal transport media continues to be in short supply nationwide. Testing platforms are now accepting specimens in alternate transport media and from alternate collection sites (i.e. Throat, nasal or nasal pharyngeal). If ordering respiratory viral testing along with COVID-19 testing, please make sure your specimen type and transport media is approved for respiratory viral testing, or you will need to send two separate collection swabs in the appropriate transport media.

Please be aware of these shortages when making decisions to obtain new instrumentation and make sure the contract has language that includes expected instrument delivery dates, initial and re-ordering of reagent commitments from the vendor and expected dates of reagent delivery. There should be an "out clause" if the vendor is unable to make the expected commitment dates.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Rhonda Burgard, Client Services Supervisor at 701-530-5700.