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Michael A. Ceballos
Director

Mark Gordon
Governor

September 2, 2020

RE: WPHL to return to SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR due to reagent shortage

Laboratory partner,

As you likely are aware, on August 24 the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL) changed SARS-CoV-2 testing methods. The new method, which is known as the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex Assay, allowed for the simultaneous detection of influenza A, influenza B, and SARS-CoV-2. This was a development we were pleased to offer and was based on a test offered to us by CDC.

Unfortunately, we have been informed of unexpected, sudden supply shortages at the federal level related to this test.

As a result, on Tuesday, September 8, WPHL will return to using the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel. This is the same test performed at WPHL prior to August 24 for detecting COVID-19. Testing results will only include a result for SARS-CoV-2; influenza results will not be included. The ordering process for SARS-CoV-2 testing will not change.

Because we believe the ability to detect both COVID-19 and influenza is valuable, if and when reagents from CDC become consistently available, the WPHL will re-evaluate the ability to once again offer the Flu SC2 multiplex assay. Again, the issue we face is related to supplies rather than any known concerns with test performance.

At this time, WPHL is unable to offer diagnostic testing for influenza. If your facility is an ILINet provider, you will be contacted directly with instructions for submission of samples for influenza surveillance.

WPHL apologizes for any inconvenience this change may cause. We will do our best to keep you up to date with WPHL testing information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Noah Hull".

Noah Hull, MPH, PhD
Microbiology Manager
Wyoming Public Health Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cari Roark Sloma".

Cari Roark Sloma, PhD, D(ABMM)
Laboratory Director
Wyoming Public Health Director