

12th March 2020

Dear Colleagues

Changes to virology testing as a result of Covid 19 testing

As you will be aware, the number of cases of Covid 19 is increasing. As a result of the change in clinical testing protocol, the virology laboratory needs to enact it's contingency plan in order to cope with the expected increase in sample numbers.

Mumps PCR

After discussion with NHS Lothian HPT we will no longer offer this test. Mumps is usually a clinical diagnosis and can be reported to HPT as such.

Respiratory Virus PCR

Viral respiratory samples received from primary care will only be tested for SARS CoV2 (the virus that causes Covid 19).

HSV PCR

We will not be testing genital samples for HSV and we discourage testing of other sites where a clinical diagnosis can be made, such as cold sores.

VZV PCR

Again we would discourage testing where a clinical diagnosis can be made, such as clinical zoster or varicella.

Kind regards
Yours faithfully

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