

April 20, 2020

PDL has been working collaboratively with the Public Health laboratory. The recent advisory has caused some confusion as to the services that PDL is offering. Here are some clarification points:

PDL Testing Services:

PDL is working with Public Health on Tier 1 testing in the community.

- **Turnaround times** vary depending on the testing system used and performing laboratory. Due to ongoing reagent allocations and instrument limitations the testing may be run in-house for a Tier 1 case on our batch instrument or be sent out to one of our referral laboratories.
- **PDL in-house testing is focused on acute care cases and prioritized Tier 1 patients through Public Health.** The primary system used is a BD Max analyzer, which is a batch style instrument. The specimens will be batched based on the time they are received at the laboratory.
Run times for batches are:
 - Monday – Friday
 - 11 am with results by 3 pm
 - 7 pm with results by 11 pm
 - Saturday and Sunday
 - One run each day at 2 pm with results by 6 pm
- **PDL referral laboratories** are being utilized for outreach COVID testing requests and for some Tier 1 testing where next day TAT is acceptable. We are monitoring referral laboratory services daily and are observing a current TAT of 18 to 19 hours after pickup from PDL. Specimens are sent daily from PDL to our referral laboratories with a pickup time at 6:30 pm Monday -Friday and 2 pm Saturday and Sunday.
- **Specimen source and container type acceptability vary depending on the FDA Emergency Use Authorization for the instrument the COVID-19 PCR is performed on. At this time:**
 - Public Health is requesting NP in UTM
 - PDL'S in-house batch test instrument requires a NP or OP in UTM
 - LabCorp and Sonic can accept NP or OP in UTM or eSwab (full listing on www.pdllabs.com)
 - Please note LabCorp cannot test 1 mL specimens at this time; these specimens are routed to Sonic.
 - BAL washings and other non-swab specimens are routed to specific referral lab locations for performance and will have a longer TAT than a NP swab in UTM

Please feel free to call our Client Service Center with any questions at 805-879-8100.