

8th April 2020

RE: COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan

Dear Service User

Following recent guidance from NHS England on the provision of genomic services at this time, we would like to update you of our current plans during the COVID-19 outbreak:

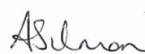
- Whilst our staff are able to attend the laboratory and we are able to resource sufficient reagent supplies, our services will operate on a business as usual basis
- If significant numbers of staff are sick or self-isolating, we will operate with minimum on-site staff, which will allow urgent services to be prioritised.
- Urgent services have been define by NHS England as all tests for:
 - Pregnant women undergoing prenatal diagnosis; including diagnostic assays to clarify the results of screening tests, for the common aneuploidies; Trisomies 13, 18, and 21;
 - Patients needing urgent advice on carrier testing relating to pregnancy. Examples include cystic fibrosis, thalassaemia;
 - Those faced with abnormal fetal scans; critically ill neonates and children requiring assessment, including microarray, and those for whom the rapid PICU/NICU WES is appropriate;
 - Conditions where rapid genetic testing may alter clinical treatment or decision making; and
 - Patients requiring urgent testing (e.g. BRCA testing) to inform chemotherapy options.
- Please consider whether any non-urgent genomic tests are currently required, and if there is any possibility of delaying testing.
- Non-urgent samples that are received will be processed and stored appropriately, and tested where capacity allows.
- We will endeavour to meet agreed turn-around times but this may not always be possible.

We ask that service users do not send samples from known or suspected COVID-19 patients unless they satisfy the criteria of urgent tests. Please contact the laboratory before sending any such samples as testing will be considered on a case-by-case basis. As this is a rapidly evolving situation, any information is obviously subject to change, and please do not hesitate to contact the lab or ourselves directly if you need any further guidance or information.

With best wishes



Kath Smith
Laboratory Services Director



Angela Silmon
Operational Director



Rob Taylor
Scientific Director



Eamonn Sheridan
Medical Director