

**April 2, 2020**

**School of Medicine Update: COVID-19 Testing**

Dear Colleagues:

We want to update you on the current status of COVID-19 testing at the School of Medicine (SOM) and Tulane Medical Center (TMC).

**COVID-19 Testing Laboratories**

Since Monday, 3/30/20, TMC has implemented COVID-19 testing on the Roche platform which allows test results within 24 hours or sooner. This testing at TMC is being done in collaboration with LSU and LCMC/University Medical Center (UMC) so that during each run of 94 tests, one-half is for each hospital. Depending on availability of kits, TMC may do 2 runs daily, allowing testing of 184 samples.

Starting Wednesday, 4/1/20, the SOM implemented COVID-19 testing at its Molecular Pathology Laboratory using the CDC test. This testing was established through a collaboration between Dr. Bob Garry and his team (Microbiology) and Drs. Xiao-Ming Yin and Di Tian (Pathology). The laboratory can run approximately 100 tests a day, and test results will be available within 24 hours or less. The initial priority for testing is our patients, SOM healthcare providers and residents, SOM faculty, staff and students. We hope to extend testing to first responders and to the whole Tulane University community soon, as we obtain further resources.

**COVID-19 Testing Sites**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the SOM opened its drive-through COVID-19 test site located at 1700 Perdido, under the guidance of Dr. David Mushatt (Infectious Diseases), Dr. John Carlson (Allergy & Immunology), and Joe Esneault. This site is open for Tulane SOM faculty, residents, staff and students who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms – fever, cough and/ or shortness of breath. Testing is by appointment only after a telehealth visit performed by the SOM Wellness Clinic. If a SOM employee is feeling ill, they should call the Employee Wellness Clinic at 988-HEAL (4325) or email [wellnessclinic@tulane.edu](mailto:wellnessclinic@tulane.edu). They will be triaged by phone and a virtual visit will be completed the same day or the next day. Nasal swabs collected at the testing site are processed at the Molecular Pathology Laboratory.

TMC has established an employee drive-through testing for symptomatic employees. If a TMC employee or TU physician is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, that person or his or her manager should first call TMC employee health at (504) 988-1878. Employee health will confirm those symptoms and, if appropriate, coordinate testing for the employee. Tests will be available downtown from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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