



AT THE FOREFRONT  
**UChicago**  
**Medicine**

**DATE:** December 14, 2020  
**TO:** UCH Medical Staff, House staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics  
**FROM:** Vera Tesic, MD, Medical Director, Laboratory Service Center  
Associate Medical Director, Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory  
Scott M. Matushek, MS, M(ASCP), Laboratory Manager, Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratory  
**RE: Product shortage affecting patient testing: Gastrointestinal Panel**

Continuing international shortages of laboratory supplies and reagents related to the COVID-19 pandemic are also affecting our ability to perform other routine testing. These shortages recently extended to the BioFire Gastrointestinal (GI) Panel used for testing stool specimens. This assay is backordered from the manufacturer, and not expected to be available until mid-January 2021, due to their focus on producing COVID-19 assays.

We have identified an alternative assay available at a commercial laboratory, Viracor Diagnostics. Once we have exhausted our supply of BioFire GI Panels, requests will be submitted to Viracor for testing by the Luminex xTAG Gastrointestinal panel.

Stool specimens should be collected in a sterile screwtop container. Turnaround time for these results is expected to be 5-7 days.

The Luminex xTAG Gastrointestinal Panel detects 15 gastrointestinal pathogen targets: Adenovirus (40/41), *Campylobacter*, *Clostridium difficile* toxin A/B, *Cryptosporidium* (*C. parvum* and *C. hominis* only), *Entamoeba histolytica*, *Escherichia coli* O157, Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC) LT/ST, *Giardia lamblia*, Norovirus GI/GII, Rotavirus A, *Salmonella*, Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) stx1/stx2, *Shigella* (*S. boydii*, *S. sonnei*, *S. flexneri* and *S. dysenteriae*), *Vibrio cholera*, and *Yersinia enterocolitica*.

We will continue to work with BioFire to obtain additional supplies and will return to in-house testing when that assay is available.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Matushek, Laboratory Manager, in the Clinical Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories at 773-702-4116 or Vera Tesic, MD.