



**To:** Medical Staff, House Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

**From:** Kathleen G. Beavis MD, Medical Director, Section Microbiology and Immunology

Vera Tesic, MD, MS, D (ABMM) Associate Medical Director, Clinical Microbiology & Immunology Laboratories and Medical Director, Laboratory Service Center

Zelalem Tadesse (Zee) MBA, MS, MLS (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> Clinical Laboratories Director - Specialty Area

**Date:** 2/24/2023

**Subject:** Viral Load and Qualitative PCR Test Turnaround Time Delays

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**Effective Date:** 2/24/2023.

**Laboratory Section:** Microbiology/Immunology

**Summary:** On early Thursday morning, a ceiling pipe burst in microbiology, which resulted in significant water damage to our high throughput molecular virology instrument. This instrument is used to perform the following tests:

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Influenza PCR, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Viral Load, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Viral Load, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV-1) Viral Load, Cytomegalovirus (CMV), quantitative PCR, EBV quantitative PCR, and BK Virus quantitative PCRs.

Until this instrument can be repaired or replaced, we will be sending out our viral loads and quantitative PCR assays to a reference laboratory, increasing our turnaround time from its current 1-3 days to 4-5 days.

**All SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and Influenza PCRs will continue to be performed in house.** These tests will be moved into a different platform, which has greatly reduced capacity, but we are rearranging operations within the lab to try to maintain current TATs for these tests. We are working with the vendor and facilities to resume normal operations as soon as possible. We will communicate any further adjustments to work as needed.

**Questions:** If there are any questions regarding the change, test requirements or ordering, please contact: *Zelalem Tadesse*, [Zelalem.Tadesse@uchicagomedicine.org](mailto:Zelalem.Tadesse@uchicagomedicine.org), *Kathleen G. Beavis MD*, [kbeavis@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:kbeavis@bsd.uchicago.edu) or *Vera Tesic, MD, MS, D (ABMM)* [vtesic@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:vtesic@bsd.uchicago.edu)