



MEMORANDUM

TO: Catholic Health Medical and Nursing Staff
Catholic Health Clinics
Laboratory Staff
Laboratory Clients

FROM: James J Jarnot, MBA, MT (ASCP), SC; Technical Director, CH Laboratory

DATE: April 22, 2020

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Antibody (IgG) Testing

CC: Hans Cassagnol M.D., EVP, Chief Clinical Office & Chief Physician Executive
Donald Slate, M.D., Medical Director, Kenmore Mercy Laboratory
Barbara Stefanick M.D. Medical Director, CH Laboratory @ Sisters of Charity Hospital
Sateesh Satchidanand M.D. Medical Director, CH Laboratory @ St Joseph Campus
Michael Albert M.D. Medical Director, CH Laboratories, CH Laboratory @ Buffalo Mercy
Walter Walek M.D. Medical Director, CH Laboratory @ Mt St. Mary's
Usha Chopra M.D. Medical Director, CH Laboratory @ MACC

Effective April 22nd, Catholic Health Laboratory will begin offering an automated laboratory based semi-quantitative chemiluminescent serology test for the detection of COVID-19 Immunoglobulin G (IgG) Antibodies. While molecular tests detect whether someone has the viral ribonucleic acid (RNA), the IgG antibody testing indicates recent or previous exposure and some level of immunity yet to be defined.

NOTE: An antibody test should not be used for diagnostic purposes. IgG testing cannot be used to diagnose acute infection and is not a substitute for PCR in acutely ill individuals with suspected COVID-19.

Samples that have a value greater than or equal to a cutoff value will be reported as Positive; those samples with values less than the cutoff value, will be reported as Negative.

Analytical Specificity

The SARS-CoV-2 IgG assay was evaluated by the vendor for potential cross-reactivity from individuals with other medical conditions. A total of 182 specimens from 36 different categories were tested. One hundred eighty-one (181) specimens were negative and 1 specimen was positive by the SARS-CoV-2 IgG assay.

Testing will be available by collecting a blood sample from a patient. Serum is the preferred sample collected in a gold top tube. The tube should be allowed to clot for 30 minutes before centrifugation. The test is performed on the Abbott Architect i-2000 instrument at the core laboratory at Sisters of Charity Main St. Campus. Testing will be performed Monday- Friday from 0800-1600. If more testing is required, additional run times will be established.

For more information contact your site specific Laboratory Supervisor or Customer Service at 862-1150.