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*Happy Medical Laboratory Professionals Week!*

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## BILLING AND COMPLIANCE

### Advanced beneficiary notice (ABN) expiration

The current ABN form indicates that it expires on 03/2020 , however the Medicare website states the following:

*"The ABN, Form CMS-R-131, is currently awaiting OMB approval for renewal. CMS will provide instructions when it does get approved. In the meantime, continue to use the current form until further instruction is provided."*

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## COVID-19 UPDATE

### Allina Health Laboratory Patient Service Center status

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the safety of our patients, visitor restrictions have been put in place at all Allina Health hospital facilities.

At this time, our patient service centers (PSC) remain open for sample collections, however, in an effort to protect the health of all patients and staff, we ask that only patients with *critical blood draws or pre-employment testing required for immediate job placement* present for collections; any well testing, or optional testing, should wait and be collected at a later date. Any patients who are ill, or showing symptoms of illness should not present at our PSC's. In addition, due to the Governor's stay at home order, in effect until May 4, 2020, the hours that these sites are open have been adjusted. Drop off services are not affected by these changes.

Allina Health Laboratory is in the process of developing alternate collection plans and will any changes to our PSC status will be shared as the information becomes available.

A list of the sites and current hours is included on the following page, however, this information is under constant evaluation and may change. [Current PSC hours](#) will be listed on our website.

We appreciate your understanding of our efforts to keep all patients and staff safe and healthy!

<b>City</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>Buffalo Hospital</b> 303 Catlin St Buffalo, MN 55313	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Sat – Sun: Closed
<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>Cambridge Medical Center</b> 701 S Dellwood St Cambridge, MN 55008	Mon - Fri: 7am – 8:30pm Sat: 8:30am – 5pm Sun: 9am – 5:30pm
<b>Coon Rapids</b>	<b>Mercy Hospital – Mercy Campus</b> 4050 Coon Rapids Blvd Coon Rapids, MN 55433	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Edina</b>	<b>Abbott Northwestern Center for Outpatient Care</b> 8100 W 78th St, Ste 110 Edina, MN 55439	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Faribault</b>	<b>District One Hospital</b> 200 State Ave Faribault, MN 55021	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Fridley</b>	<b>Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus</b> 550 Osborne Rd Fridley, MN 55432	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Hastings</b>	<b>Regina Hospital</b> 1175 Nininger Rd Hastings, MN 55033	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Minneapolis</b>	<b>Abbott Northwestern Hospital</b> 800 E 28th St Minneapolis, MN 55407	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>New Ulm</b>	<b>New Ulm Medical Center</b> 1324 Fifth St N New Ulm, MN 56073	Mon - Fri: 7am – 4:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Owatonna</b>	<b>Owatonna Hospital</b> 2250 NW 26th St Owatonna, MN 55060	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Plymouth</b>	<b>Abbott Northwestern – WestHealth</b> 2805 Campus Dr, Ste 215 Plymouth, MN 55441	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>River Falls (WI)</b>	<b>River Falls Area Hospital</b> 1629 E Division St River Falls, WI 54022	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>St. Paul</b>	<b>United Hospital</b> 333 Smith Ave N St. Paul, MN 55102	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed
<b>Shakopee</b>	<b>St Francis Regional Medical Center</b> 1455 St Francis Ave Shakopee, MN 55379	Mon - Fri: 7am – 3:30pm Weekends/holidays: Closed

## Clinic closures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there are a number of Allina Health Clinic sites that have been temporarily closed or will be closing. Below is the list of affected sites to date and may not be all inclusive, as Allina Health is continually adjusting to meet patient care and safety needs. Before sending a patient to any of our clinic sites, it is best to confirm that they are open on [allinahealth.org](http://allinahealth.org).

<b>Site</b>	<b>Status</b>
Allina Health Clinic Annandale	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Blaine	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Brooklyn Park	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Burnsville	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Cottage Grove	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Dean Lakes	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Eagan	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Farmington	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Highland	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Isanti	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Isles	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Jordan	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Nicollet Mall	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Oakdale	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Ramsey	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Richfield	Currently Closed
Allina Health Clinic Uptown	Closed effective 4/16/2020
Allina Health Clinic Vadnais Heights	Currently Closed

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# IMMUNOLOGY

## Alpha 1-antitrypsin obsolete

Effective April 21, 2020, the Alpha-1-antitrypsin assay (18) will become obsolete and made not orderable.

The suggested alternative test is the Alpha-1-antitrypsin, serum or plasma (14275/LAB14275), referred to LabCorp.

## Immunology testing schedule change

Effective immediately, due to COVID-9 efforts, Allina Health Laboratory has implemented temporary testing schedule changes in our Immunology laboratory. The testing affected by these changes, along with the temporary testing schedule and turn-around-times (TAT) are indicated below. Alerts for these changes have been added to our test catalog.

Test name	Test #	Temporary testing schedule	Temporary TAT
Tissue Transglutaminase IgA Antibody	2993	Mon	1 - 8 days
Cardiolipin Antibody (IgA, IgM, IgG)	661	Wed	1 - 8 days
Beta 2-Glycoprotein Ab	7769	Wed	1 - 8 days
Anti Smith	12660	Tu, Th	2 - 5 days
RNP Antibody	12661	Tu, Th	2 - 5 days
Sjogren's Antibodies	648A	Tu, Th	2 - 5 days
Allergen, IgE (all in-house testing)	Multiple	Tu, Fr	2 - 5 days
Lyme Disease Serology, polyvalent	4750	Tu, Th	2 - 5 days
Lyme Disease Serology, polyvalent with reflex	659	Mo, Th	2 - 5 days
Anti-Nuclear Antibody by IFA	12467	Mo, We, Fr	1 - 4 days
DNA Double-Stranded Abs by Crithidia luciliae	605	Mo, We, Fr	1 - 4 days
ANCA panel for vasculitis	528	Mo, We, Fr	1 - 4 days
Lymes Western Blot	878	Th	2 - 8 days
Erythropoietin	297	Tu, Fr	2 - 5 days
Thyroglobulin, tumor marker	429	Tu, Fr	2 - 5 days
Thyroglobulin antibody	1654	Tu, Fr	2 - 5 days

Additional communication will be shared when the schedules and TAT are reverted back to our normal testing schedules.

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## MICROBIOLOGY

### Influenza testing suspended

Effective immediately, due to the low prevalence of flu in the community, all influenza testing has been suspended. Suspension of this testing will help conserve limited collection supplies for COVID-19 testing.

The tests affected by this suspension are:

- Influenza A/B PCR 8810
- Influenza antigen 6696

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## REFERRAL TESTING

### Alpha 1-antitrypsin, serum or plasma

Effective April 21, 2020, the Alpha 1-antitrypsin, serum or plasma assay (14275/LAB 14275), referred to LabCorp, will become available for order.

The Alpha 1 antitrypsin assay is useful in the detection of hereditary decreases in the production of  $\alpha$ 1-antitrypsin ( $\alpha$ 1AT). Decreased or nearly absent levels of  $\alpha$ 1AT can be a factor in chronic obstructive lung disease and liver disease. An increased prevalence of non-MM phenotypes is found with cryptogenic cirrhosis and with CAH. Cirrhosis in a child should raise consideration of  $\alpha$ 1AT deficiency or Wilson's disease. Diagnosis of inflammatory states, if elevated (eg, rheumatoid arthritis, bacterial infection, vasculitis, neoplasia).

<b>Test name</b>	<b>Alpha 1-antitrypsin, serum or plasma</b>
<b>Test number</b>	14275
<b>Excellian/Beaker order code</b>	LAB14275
<b>Test abbreviation</b>	A1A
<b>Patient preparation</b>	Overnight fasting prior to sample collection is preferred
<b>Specimen type</b>	Serum
<b>Volume</b>	1.0 mL
<b>Collection container</b>	Gold SST
<b>Processing</b>	Spin
<b>Transport/stability:</b>	Ambient (preferred) - 14 days
<b>Performing lab</b>	LabCorp (001982); R-LC
<b>Days set up</b>	Mo-Fr, Su
<b>Expected TAT</b>	1 - 2 days
<b>Reference range</b>	See report

## Coenzyme Q10 assay changes

LabCorp announced specimen requirement changes for the Coenzyme Q10, total assay (994, LabCorp #120251) which went into effect on April 13, 2020.

	Previous	NEW
<b>Specimen</b>	Na heparin plasma, protected from light	Serum, protected from light
<b>Volume</b>	1.0 mL	0.5 mL
<b>Minimum volume</b>	0.5 mL	0.25 mL <i>Note: This volume does not allow for repeat testing</i>
<b>Collection container</b>	Dk green	Gold SST
<b>Alternate collection container</b>	None	Red
<b>Collection instructions</b>	Draw blood into a chilled green-top tube. Keep unopened and on ice before processing	
<b>Processing instructions</b>	Immediately separate plasma from red cells by centrifugation. Plasma must be separated from cells within 45 minutes of venipuncture. Transfer plasma specimen to a labeled amber transport tube and freeze on dry ice. PROTECT FROM LIGHT	Spin and transfer serum to an Amber transfer vial/tube - 12 mL (LabCorp)
<b>Transport container</b>	LabCorp Amber 4mL screw-cap polypropylene frozen transport tube	Amber transfer vial/tube - 12 mL (LabCorp)
<b>Transport &amp; stability</b>	Frozen (preferred) - 14 days Refrigerated - 3 days	Ambient (preferred) - 3 days Refrigerated - 14 days Frozen - 14 days <i>Freeze/Thaw Cycle: Stable x6</i>
<b>Causes for rejection</b>		Non-light protected serum

## Liver-kidney microsomal (LKM) antibodies

LabCorp has implemented changes to the transport and stability requirements for the Liver-Kidney microsomal (LKM) antibodies assay (13414/LAB13414) which went into effect on April 6, 2020.

	Previous	NEW
<b>Processing instructions</b>	Spin, separate and <b>freeze</b>	Gold SST - Spin Red – spin and separate
<b>Transport container</b>	Screw-cap polypropylene frozen transport vial/tube - 4mL (LabCorp)	Gold SST or Transfer vial/tube with cap - 12mL (LabCorp)
<b>Preferred temp</b>	Frozen ( <i>preferred</i> )	Ambient ( <i>preferred</i> ) – 14 days
<b>Alternate temp</b>	Refrigerated – 48 hours	Refrigerated – 14 days
<b>Alternate temp</b>	Ambient – 8 hours	Frozen – 14 days <i>Freeze/thaw cycle: stable x4</i>

## WEBSITE

### Test catalog print function enhanced

We have listened to concerns received, and would like to share that the print function of our test catalog has been updated and improved such that printouts will now include comprehensive test entry information that follows the tab structure layout of the catalog. Please see the screen shot below of a partial printout for an example.

**Allina Health**

Influenza antigen-6696

4/13/2020

*Effective immediately, all influenza testing is suspended due to low prevalence of flu in the community. This will help conserve limited collection supplies for COVID-19 testing.*

**Test info**

Test name: Influenza antigen  
 Test number: 6696  
 Specimen order number: 87204.0  
 Abbreviation: INF  
 Alternate names: Flu  
 Rapid influenza

**Specimen**

Specimen type: Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab  
 Alternate collect: Nasopharyngeal washing/separate  
 Collection container: NP swab:  
 ESwab flexible mini-tip collection kit (blue)

**NP washing:**  
 Screw cap plastic container (sterile)

**Collection instructions:**

**Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab collection**

1. Use a mini-tip swab appropriate for the test ordered.
2. As the mini-tip swab is removed from the package, bend the wire to the shape of the nasal passage. Maintain sterility of the swab.
3. Tip patient's head back and swab through the nostril into the nasopharynx.
4. Rotate the swab on the nasopharyngeal membrane to allow the swab to absorb organisms.
5. Remove the swab carefully and place in the transport medium.

**Nasopharyngeal washings**

1. With patient in supine position, tilt head back at 70° angle.
2. Attach sterile syringe to catheter. Insert catheter into nostril and instill 2 to 3 mL normal bacteriostatic saline into one nostril and pharynx.



## Additional specimen fields added

To make our test catalog more clear when multiple specimen types are acceptable, we are in the process of adding addition fields to the test catalog specimen tab to include alternate collection container, alternate processing and alternate transport containers.

An example of this is included below:

Test info	Specimen	Performance	Clinical and Interpretive info	Billing	Tracking
Specimen type:	Serum				
Collection container:	Gold SST				
Volume:	1.0 mL				
Minimum volume:	0.5 mL				
Processing instructions:	Spin				
Transport container:	Gold SST				
Alternate specimen type:	Serum - red				
Alternate collection container:	Red				
Alternate processing instructions:	Spin and separate				
Alternate transport container:	Transfer vial/tube with cap - 12mL (LabCorp)				
Transport and stability:	Ambient (preferred) - 4 weeks Refrigerated - 4 weeks Frozen - 3 months				
Reason for rejection:	Lipemic samples may lead to rejection				

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***Thank you for choosing Allina Health Laboratory -  
we value your business!***