

5th August 2020

Re: Update on genomics test availability from the Viapath Genomics Laboratory Services at Guy's Hospital in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Dear Service User,

In June I wrote to advise you of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the laboratory and to ask you not to refer any patients for non-urgent genetic tests where the result will not alter patient management. Today I am writing to update you of our current situation regarding the provision of testing from our laboratory.

As Hospital Trusts are starting to open Outpatients Departments and resume clinical services for non-urgent patients, we are committed to supporting the recovery of hospital services, and will restart genomic testing for all indications normally provided by our facility.

From the 10th of August 2020 onwards, the laboratory will be accepting all samples for genomic testing.

We are aware that some clinics have implemented remote consultations by teleconferencing and are issuing DIY sample collection kits to patients. Our preference is to receive blood samples, but saliva samples will be processed as an **exception** where blood samples are unobtainable.

Please can we request any saliva/buccal samples are clearly labelled and placed in a clear plastic bag attached to but not within the same bag as the accompanying referral form.

PLEASE NOTE that we will NOT accept buccal or saliva samples from a known or suspected COVID-19 patient.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and we will provide updates if circumstances change.

In light of the current situation, please be advised that turnaround times may vary. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our service users for your understanding and patience during this challenging time. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at: gst-tr.viapathgeneticsadmin@nhs.net.

Tel: 0207 188 1696/1709

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debasmita Sarkar".

Dr Debasmita Sarkar
Service Delivery Manager