

## COVID-19 business update (14/7/21)

### The majority of test turnaround times are unaffected by restrictions in place to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In regional areas, alterations to flights and commercial couriers may be causing delays for a few clinics. Your local TML Pathology laboratory will endeavour to keep you informed of specific changes to regional arrangements.

PCR Testing for infectious agents may be slightly delayed due to our medical laboratory's leading role in COVID testing. We apologise for any inconvenience.

### Testing pets for COVID-19: not warranted at this time

The Australian government's policy on COVID-19 testing in animals is set by Animal Health Committee.

Relevant points from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 update include:

- Currently there is no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19. The current spread of COVID-19 is driven by human to human transmission.
- There have been no reports of the virus in domestic animals or wildlife in Australia.
- Diagnostic testing and surveillance in Australian animals for COVID-19 is **only** recommended on the advice of human and animal health authorities. If confirmatory testing is required, it should be undertaken at the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (the former **Australian Animal Health Laboratory**). Such testing needs **approval by the state's Chief Veterinary Officer**.

Links to AHC policy statement and OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) are below:

[agriculture.gov.au/animal/health/committees/ahc](https://agriculture.gov.au/animal/health/committees/ahc)

[oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus](https://oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019-novel-coronavirus)

Should evidence emerge that demonstrates a need to test animals for COVID-19, TML Vetnostics will follow official recommendations.

### Protection of our people and your clinic staff is paramount

- TML Pathology courier drivers have been well briefed on Social Distancing and they will do their best to minimise human to human contact when they collect samples from your clinic

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Email: [enquiries@tmlpath.com.au](mailto:enquiries@tmlpath.com.au)

Phone: **1300 838 765**