

## COVID-19 update for ASAP Laboratory (30/4/2020)

### **The majority of test TATs are yet to be affected with the exception of some referred tests**

#### **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 22nd April 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 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:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/animal/health/committees/ahc>

<https://www.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 the virus, ASAP Laboratory will follow official recommendations.

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

Our courier drivers have been well briefed on social distancing and they will do their best to reduce human to human contact when they collect samples. When practical and where available, we ask that samples are placed in a lockbox and that you specify this and any other pickup instructions at the time of booking our courier online or directly with one of our staff on 1300 838 522.

As well, please assist us by providing any changes to your clinic operating hours or days of operation by emailing [admin@asaplab.com.au](mailto:admin@asaplab.com.au)

Thank you and stay safe,

ASAP Laboratory team

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