

COVID-19 update for Vetnostics (30/4/2020)

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

Our current turn-around-times have been minimally affected and Vetnostics will endeavour to continue to meet our veterinary community's pathology needs. Acknowledging that these are extraordinary times, we may experience short delays in sample pick-up and/or reporting and if so, we will be sure to communicate this information to you in future updates via our website www.vetnostics.com.au

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-2019novel-coronavirus/>

Should evidence emerge that demonstrates a need to test animals for the virus, Vetnostics will follow official recommendations.

Protection of our people and your clinic staff is paramount

Our sample pickup drivers have been well briefed on Social Distancing and they will do their best to collect samples whilst reducing human to human contact. Samples can be left outside in your lockbox if you currently have one (please communicate with your drivers) and/or please specify any other specific pickup instructions when booking our courier either at enquiries@vetnostics.com.au, directly with one of our staff on 02 9005 7468 or directly with your usual courier. As well, please assist us by providing any changes to your clinic operating hours or days of operation by emailing enquiries@vetnostics.com.au

Thank you and stay safe,

Vetnostics team

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