

Dear Valued Supporter

## ***COVID-19 testing on SYMPTOMATIC PATIENTS only***

As per the NICD, PathCare will not be processing asymptomatic patients for coronavirus testing.

The reasons for testing only symptomatic individuals are that the PCR may be negative prior to development of symptoms in patients with COVID-19 and that inappropriate testing may rapidly saturate available testing capacity. Asymptomatic patients with a history of exposure or international travel should self- quarantine for 14 days.

Testing of symptomatic patients should be done according to the current case definition ([www.nicd.ac.za](http://www.nicd.ac.za)). Healthcare practitioners are asked to triage patients, complete the laboratory request form as well as the Person Under Investigation form (PUI) and Line of Contact forms.

Sampling and testing cannot proceed without these completed forms as required by the NICD.