



n a t i o n a l • p a t h o l o g y • g r o u p

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

20 March 2020

Dear colleagues,

### **COVID 19**

Requests for COVID 19 testing are placing extreme pressure on our member laboratory's resources.

Worldwide demand has created bottlenecks in the supply of N95 and surgical masks, nasopharyngeal swabs, gloves and COVID 19 testing kits.

Our laboratories are struggling to meet demand and turnaround times due to the inconsistency in supply of materials required to produce reliable results.

Our laboratories are cooperating with each other to purchase and share supplies so that we all operate as efficiently as we can.

We request you to:

- Adhere strictly to the NICD guidelines on making test requests - testing asymptomatic people is wasting scarce resources - <http://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/>
- Bear with us if we fail to meet published test result turnaround time targets

We are prioritising testing for:

- In-hospital patients
- High risk groups
- Index cases in community centres e.g. schools and old-age homes

Yours sincerely,

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