

**Aculabs, Inc.** 2 Kennedy Boulevard East Brunswick, NJ 08816

> T: 732.777.2588 855.ACU.LABS F: 732.777.2640 www.aculabs.com

**To: All Client Facilities** 

## **RE: Precautions & Protocols to Reduce Exposure to COVID-19**

Aculabs is reaching out to all facilities to reiterate that we understand the worries all of our clients are experiencing during this global pandemic. As we continue to serve over 400 facilities across the Mid-Atlantic with necessary clinical diagnostic services, we remain committed to the wellness and health of your residents.

As Aculabs serves predominantly elderly populations who reside in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, our services are essential to their day-to-day wellness. Our mobile technicians, with this in mind, have been trained to do all things possible to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. This includes good hygiene practices and appropriate usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

All phlebotomists have been instructed that they **must** wear a mask during their time in any facilities. We ask that facilities provide additional masks if they require masks to be changed in-between each and every patient interaction. Phlebotomists will follow FDA guidance for using masks for "extended use" during this national shortage. Masks must be changed if there are any tears, degradation of material, or possible contamination. Usage for other PPE like gloves will continue as normal.

All laboratory staff, including mobile phlebotomists, also must follow our Standard Operating Procedure and Infection Control Plan when dealing with potentially infectious specimen. All phlebotomists are given copies of these protocols when hired and undergo a probationary period of at least two weeks where they train with senior staff that ensures they follow all proper procedures before becoming fully employed.

Human Resources have also reviewed Flexible Time Off records for the last 60 days to survey employees for those who left the country in that time. Any employees who pose a risk of possible exposure by exhibiting any symptoms, travelled to a country under a CDC warning level, or have been in contact with someone who meets either of the previous criteria have been instructed to quarantine at home.

Furthermore, Aculabs is also asking our phlebotomists to follow CDC guidelines for all Healthcare Personnel and to check their temperature twice a day. Those who display an oncoming fever, any shortness of breath, a cough, or any other symptoms have been told they must report to Human Resources.

We will continue to let facilities know further updates as they are made available.

Sincerely,

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Joyce Bautista Human Resources Coordinator