***Hematology Lab Meeting.***

**03/19/2020 @ 9:00 am**

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| *Present:* |  ***Pat Gelineau*** |

Announcement:

-Virology is running COVID testing for inpatients, other delivery network hospital’s ICU patients, employee samples.

-Starting Tuesday March 17, Long Wharf outpatient drive through began covid19 testing for community patients. Patients must have a doctor’s order and an appointment. The testing is performed at Quest.

The process:

Patient has symptoms with fever, calls doctor, doctor faxes requisition to our Lab Billing staff on the second floor, orders the test in Epic. This triggers a work queue for hospital schedulers who will then call patient for appointment at Long Wharf.

Sample collection at LW takes 5-10 mins by nurse, handed to a phlebotomist who labels and secures in a double bag. There is a courier service set up for every 2 hours to bring directly to our Reference. Many samples have to be re-transcribed by lab staff as these are Quest Preferred provider so the orders do not interface to Quest. These re-transcribed samples are then relabeled.

We have averaged 60 samples/day but the volume is going up. Today there were about 150+ patient orders. There will be a Saturday collection as well and more lanes to possibly open.

Daily email updates are sent to employees on the COVID 19; and as of today we will continue to use the PPE when we are in Virology using the biosafety hood.

There is a video that was sent out on how to use the biosafety hood in MTS. Please read.

We will have to save and reuse our biosafety masks unless visibly soiled.

A BSC-2 biosafety cabinet is on order where we can work with appropriate specimens.

The cabinet will be arriving to the lab soon.

The Chemical waste has to be brought upstairs within 3 days of filling it. (We are only allowed to store up to 20 liters (5 gallons) per container on the 5th floor and once it's full and moved to the storage area, must be dated.

An update- the lab week gift now includes the choice of getting a vest or a jacket. Please make your new selection by the beginning of next week, there is a new sheet to sign up on the board. March 25 is the last possible date to sign up.