



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
State Virology Laboratory

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February 17, 2022

Dear Valued Provider,

The current pandemic has presented many challenges for our communities across Alaska and the country. The Alaska State Virology Laboratory (ASVL) continues to experience excessive delays in receiving testing reagents and the necessary materials to process specimens for hepatitis C testing and hepatitis B core antibody testing.

- Beginning immediately, we encourage you to forward any hepatitis C testing to a commercial laboratory as ASVL does not expect to receive hepatitis C antibody testing reagents until April 2022.
- Beginning immediately, we encourage you to forward any hepatitis B core antibody testing to a commercial laboratory as ASVL is not expected to receive this testing reagent until mid-March of 2022.

Hepatitis A total antibody and hepatitis A IgM antibody testing is not affected at this time. Specimens received for this testing will continue to be processed. ASVL will continue to perform testing for hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B surface antibody. These two assays will be performed for any specimens that are currently in our laboratory for all hepatitis B panels in our test menu.

ASVL will notify providers as soon as hepatitis B core antibody and hepatitis C reagents are reliably available. Thank you for your continued support through these difficult times.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nisha Fowler", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nisha Fowler, MT (ASCP)
Laboratory Manager
Alaska State Virology Laboratory
907-371-1000