



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

January 3, 2022

### **RE: Important Request to Provide Samples to CIAN Laboratories on Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Inpatients for “S Gene Dropout Testing”**

Dear Hospital Chief Executive Officers and Leaders:

The State of Maryland continues to carefully watch the SARS-CoV-2 variants in order to refine our projections and modeling and match the State’s response based on current and projected variants.

The Maryland Department of Health has executed an agreement with CIAN Diagnostics to conduct “*s gene dropout testing*” for inpatients in hospitals that do not conduct frequent sequencing of their COVID positive inpatients (including those inpatients that have expired).

We are asking your Hospital(s), through your Pathology leadership, to contact CIAN Laboratories using the process noted below:

**Step 1:** Email CIAN your Hospital contact for the *s gene dropout testing* using the following email address for CIAN communications: [sgene@ciandx.com](mailto:sgene@ciandx.com). Please note that this email address is to be used for *s gene dropout testing only*. Please make sure the contact name and your hospital (or hospitals) are listed in the email with the email address and phone number for the contact should CIAN have any questions.

**Step 2:** At 10:30 AM each day, your hospital should confirm that you have samples ready for pick-up using the same email address: [sgene@ciandx.com](mailto:sgene@ciandx.com). In the email, please provide the exact location as to where CIAN should to pick up the samples.

**Step 3:** Hospital collects samples between 10:30 and 1:30 PM for CIAN to pick up between 2-4 PM each day.

Samples must be assembled and packaged separately from any testing sites samples with the following information:

- Must be tagged as "S GENE DROPOUT SAMPLES"
- Must include the Hospital(s) Name(s)
- Must include requisition form for each patient that sample is sent to CIAN for processing

- MUST CONTAIN NAME AND DOB FOR EACH PATIENT
- Need to identify if the enclosed swab is the original swab or a second swab
- Need to identify the date of original swab (sample) and date of second swab if a second swab is taken

**Step 4:** CIAN will pick the samples between 2-4 PM each day at the location identified by the Hospital contact individual

**Step 5:** CIAN will begin processing the samples they receive from the hospitals with all testing completed by the following morning

**Step 6:** CIAN will submit s gene dropout test results to Maryland hospitals and the Maryland Department of Health

If you have questions on the logistics noted above or want to discuss other details, please contact Jack Forsythe at 443-904-3110 or [jack.forsythe@maryland.gov](mailto:jack.forsythe@maryland.gov). Mr. Forsythe will return your call or email as quickly as possible.

Let me thank you in advance for all you have done to partner with the State of Maryland, including your important participation in the s gene dropout data testing program.

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Schrader  
Secretary