

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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SCOTT M. SHONE, PhD, HCLD (ABB) • Laboratory Director, State
Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: Submitters of Clinical Specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

From: Scott M. Shone, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB) – Laboratory Director 

CC: Communicable Disease Nurses, HIV/STD Prevention and Care Unit

Date: March 16, 2023

Re: HIV-1 Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)

Effective Monday, March 20, 2023, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will resume HIV nucleic acid testing (NAT) in-house on the Hologic Panther instrument platform. However, prenatal specimens will still be forwarded to the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)/Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) HIV NAT Reference Center at the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center. As described in the [CDC Recommended Laboratory HIV Testing Algorithm](#), NAT testing is only initiated for the small number of specimens with a reactive antigen/antibody combination test and an indeterminate or negative HIV-1/HIV-2 differentiation test.

There will be no change to specimen collection or submission procedures related to this change. Submitters should continue submitting specimens with the [HIV/HCV Testing Report Form, DHHS 1111](#). Additional information about submission criteria and shipping can be found in Appendix A of the [NCSLPH SCOPE Guide to Laboratory Services](#). Submitters may notice minor formatting changes and updated comments on results reports and we appreciate your patience during this transition.

Please contact Amorie Parker (Serology Supervisor) at 919-807-8830 or amorie.parker@dhhs.nc.gov or contact Rebecca Pelc, PhD (Virology/Serology Manager) at 919-807-8868 or rebecca.pelc@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions or concerns about this change.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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