

Laboratory Services

monthly updates

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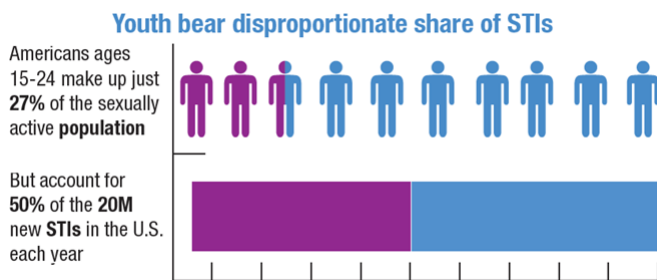
Changes and Closures in Laboratory Service Center Hours

Effective Monday, March 6 we are making a couple changes to our offsite lab hours of operations:

- We will be closing walk-in lab services at all our urgent care locations at 7:00 p.m. This change applies to walk-in patients and families only. (We will continue to offer lab services for patients who are being treated in our urgent care centers whenever the urgent care site is open.)
- Our Grove City Laboratory Services location will be closed for three months beginning on March 6. This change is temporary while we work to hire and train staff. We will encourage providers and patients to access our lab services at one of our other laboratory service centers.

April is National Sexually Transmitted Infections Awareness Month

All sexually active adolescents are at risk for STIs. Both biological and behavioral factors place young people at elevated risk. The majority of these infections are asymptomatic, but they may lead to cervicitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, urethritis, epididymitis, tubal scarring and infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and cervical cancer later in life.



How to Screen for Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Adolescents?

Chlamydia trachomatis and Neisseria gonorrhea

Chlamydia and gonorrhea are the most common reportable infections in the US, and rates are increasing.¹ Infections may be asymptomatic, or may lead to cervicitis, PID, chronic pelvic pain, ectopic pregnancy, and tubal infertility. Males may experience urethritis, epididymitis, and rectal infections.

Tests:

Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) are the gold standard. NCH laboratory services uses Hologic's Aptima Combo 2[®] assay, ordered as "Chlamydia and GC by amplified detection".

Trichomonas vaginalis (TV)

T. vaginalis infection is a common cause of vaginal discharge, though it may be asymptomatic. Trichomoniasis is associated with adverse pregnancy

outcomes and an increased risk of HIV transmission. Screening of asymptomatic women at increased risk is therefore permissible. Screening asymptomatic males is not advised, but testing may be considered in males with persistent urethritis symptoms.

Tests:

NAATs are the gold standard. NCH laboratory services uses Hologic's Aptima[®] T. vaginalis assay, ordered as "Trichomonas vaginalis amplified probe" or "Chlamydia/GC/Trichomonas amplified probe panel". Visualization of motile trichomonads on microscopic evaluation of a vaginal specimen provides immediate results but has low sensitivity. The BD Affirm vaginal panel, used for diagnosis of vaginal candidiasis and bacterial vaginosis, has very low sensitivity for diagnosing trichomoniasis.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

It is estimated that over 50,000 adolescents and young adults in the US have HIV, but only about half are aware of their infection. AAP recommends screening all adolescents at least once by 16-18 years-old. Sexually active adolescents should be tested sooner. Testing should be considered routine and does not require written consent. Patients have a right to "opt out" of testing.

Tests:

HIV 1 and HIV 2 Ag/Ab Screen (venipuncture)

Resources

1) 2017 CDC YRBS-https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/dear_colleague/2018/dcl-061418-YRBS.html 2) AAP Policy Statement: Screening for nonviral STI in adolescents and young adults. Pediatrics 2014;134:e302 3) 2018 CDC STDs in Adolescents and Young Adults-<https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats18/adolescents.htm>. 4) CDC. Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance 2018. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2019. 5) CDC. Sexually Transmitted Diseases Treatment Guidelines, 2021. MMWR Recomm Rep 2021 Jul 23;70(4):1-187. 6) CDC HIV and Youth- <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/age/youth/index.html> 7) Practice Tool, Nationwide Childrens, Screening Adolescents for Sexually Transmitted Infections.



CELEBRATE MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK

APRIL 24-28, 2023

How can Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services help your practice?

- Pediatric pathologist consults on lab results
- Wide acceptance of insurance plans
- Pediatric reference ranges

- Services to enhance the laboratory process in your practice
- Interface compatibility with provider EMR systems

If you would like to become a client or learn more information about Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, contact us at (800) 934-6575 or visit our website at NationwideChildrens.org/Lab. Would you like to receive the Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Newsletter electronically? Please e-mail us at LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org and let us know!



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