



**GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS
MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
20th March, 2020**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORY
Update #13**

The Ministry of Health wishes to advise the public that The Bahamas is one of the Caribbean countries providing COVID-19 laboratory testing.

COVID-19 testing will be conducted at the Ministry of Health National Reference Laboratory (NRL), which is internationally accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), and is the only laboratory in The Bahamas certified by PAHO/WHO to perform COVID-19 testing. Therefore, any other tests outside the purview of the Ministry of Health must first be approved for use in the country.

The NRL receives technical assistance and a continuous supply of molecular test kits by PAHO/WHO. The NRL has never received, distributed or utilized any of the faulty United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tests kits, as they were recalled prior to distribution.

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