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26th May 2020

Dear participant,

UK NEQAS BTLP services during the Covid-19 emergency

UK NEQAS BTLP is aware that the worsening COVID-19 pandemic is placing huge pressures on health services in the UK and throughout the world, including our participating laboratories.

In line with other UK NEQAS centres, we have developed a business continuity plan with the objective of maintaining services, supporting participants and minimising the risk to our staff during this challenging period.

Our intention is to continue with a full range of services during this time, although this is subject to review and change as the situation evolves. In the event of failure in our supply chain, we will reduce or delay the supply of services until later in the year; however, we aim to fulfil the full range of service during the coming participation year.

We will review each exercise five weeks prior to the published dispatch date (which can be found on the [schedule page](#) of our website) and indicate in the table on page 2 of this document which if any exercises are being modified and how.

We would encourage laboratories to complete their EQA testing, wherever possible, as it helps provide a degree of assurance that any contingency processes you operate are still working to a satisfactory standard.

We request that you continue to test the material for all BTLP exercises by the closing date in the exercise instructions, unless notified otherwise, to enable us to guarantee the stability of the material.

We have made arrangements to avoid penalising participants for non-return of results due to circumstances beyond their control. If you cannot return results, please let us know by email btlp@ukneqas.org and include your PRN and the exercise code.

The delay to the receipt of a proportion of results and possible staff shortages in our team may mean that data processing and reporting is delayed beyond the published report dates. For UK participants, we will follow up on performance concerns as soon as they become apparent.

With best wishes,

Richard Haggas

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