



# Laboratory Communiqué

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The Laboratory Communiqué is a quarterly publication released by Billings Clinic Laboratory Services as an informational tool for medical staff and laboratorians.

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## Pathology Department Staff Update



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rouba Hadi has joined our Pathology Department and has provided her services for about 3 months.

Dr. Hadi grew up in Claremont, CA. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology at Scripps College in Claremont, CA. She completed medical school at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, VA graduating in 2015. She went on to complete her residency in clinical and surgical pathology at the University of Washington in Seattle. She also completed fellowships in both surgical pathology and dermatopathology at the University of Washington.

Outside of medicine, she has interests in choir and singing, traveling, cooking, baking, cycling, and hiking. She is also fluent in French and Arabic.

## Immunology Department Updates

Due to increased SARS-CoV-2 testing and staffing constraints, the following testing will be temporarily sent to Mayo Laboratories. This testing applies only to the BioFlash testing that may include a Microbiology IFA test in a panel or reflex panel.

## POC Dept. Update

New Test – POC  
BinaxNOW Covid -19  
Antigen

## Chemistry Dept. Update

Discontinued Test –  
Thyroglobulin  
Antibody Test

- ANA Panel Reflex
- ANA Panel
- ANCA Panel
- ANCA Panel Reflex

Individual autoimmune assays associated with the above tests and run on the BioFlash Chemiluminescent instrument will also be sent out to Mayo Laboratories. This includes the following:

- Ro52
- Ro60
- SSB
- SM
- RNP
- Jo-1
- Scl-70
- ds-DNA
- MPO
- PR3

The other autoimmune assays performed on the BioFlash will continue to be performed in-house. They are:

Wednesday: Gluten Sensitive Enteropathy Panel, DGP-IgA, DGP-IgG, tTG-IgA, tTG-IgG and CCP assays

Friday: Cardiolipin Panels, aCL-IgG, aCL-IgM,  $\beta$ 2GP1-IgG,  $\beta$ 2GP1-IgM and CCP assays.

## Blood Draw/Phlebotomy Update on Tube Shortages

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you already know, we have a critical, nationwide shortage of all types of blood collection tubes. We are on unsteady allocation due to manufacturing issues after heavy use during the pandemic and widespread transportation issues. We expect these shortages to last another 90-120 days at minimum. Until resolved, we need to conserve tubes as much as possible by sharing tests in the same tubes and only drawing for tests which are ordered. Please be circumspect in drawing “extra” tubes as that will put our supply at even greater risk.

We will be limiting supplies severely which includes the elimination of Be Well draws as we need to prioritize ill patients above wellness draws. We will continue to share regular updates on the numbers of tubes available in the Lab (in addition to small stocks in the departments) until we have a more reliable supply. St Vincent’s and all the facilities with whom we work are struggling in the same way we are, regardless of tube manufacturer, so there is no opportunity to borrow. You may see unfamiliar tube brands as we attempt to fill



**Laboratory Services  
Contact Us**

**(406) 657-4060  
(866) 232-2522**

**Director/Pathologist:**  
Jeffrey Smith, MD

**Lab Director:**  
Mark Lubbers, MT ASCP

**Lab Manager:**  
Rebecca Schulz  
Extension 4861

**Technical Consultants:**  
Stacey LaFountain, MT ASCP  
Extension 6033

Deb Ehlers, MT ASCP  
Extension 4046

**Supervisor**  
Kelly Odermann MT ASCP  
Extension 4644

**Supervisor**  
Miranda Raschko MT ASCP  
Extension 4862

**Supervisor**  
Heather Verbeck  
Extension 6409

**Laboratory Marketing  
Coordinator**  
Jena DeVries  
Extension 4888

the gaps in stock, but we have validated as many types as possible to mitigate shortages. Our greatest shortage this week is the serum separator or red gel tube. The tubes below are equivalent to the red gel tube and may be used for all the same tests.



We appreciate your understanding as we work through these shortages.

Jeffrey K. Smith, MD, MS  
Billings Clinic Laboratory, Medical Director/Department Chair  
Email: [jksmith@billingsclinic.org](mailto:jksmith@billingsclinic.org)  
Phone: 406-657-4289

## POC Department New Test

### POC BinaxNOW Covid-19 Antigen

This new test went live 9-10-21 in Pediatrics. Patients who are symptomatic 7 days or less are eligible for this test. If the patient is outside the 7-day window or asymptomatic, they will have the lab PCR testing only.

Specimen: Nasal swab collection with the swab placed in conical vial with no transport media. Patients will be double swabbed - one for BinaxNOW and one for potential reflex to the TaqPath PCR test.

Patient Testing: 15 minutes

Results:

- Positive – testing is complete, all swabs are discarded
- Preliminary Negative – will auto reflex to TaqPath PCR. Second swab is sent to the lab for testing.
- Invalid – testing did not work and patient not re-swabbed. Auto Reflex to TaqPath PCR test. Second swab is sent to the lab for testing.

Note: All results generate/result an order which auto sends to the state for reporting purposes.

## Chemistry Department Update

### Thyroglobulin Antibody Test

This test has been discontinued due to low volume use. It is available as a reference test to Mayo Laboratories.

For more information about Billings Clinic Laboratory please call (406) 657-4060.  
[www.billingsclinic.com](http://www.billingsclinic.com)

7010



2800 Tenth Avenue North  
P.O. Box 37000  
Billings, Montana 59107-7000

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