COVID-19 Testing Prioritization Program

In accordance with guidelines issued by the US Department of Health Human and Human Services (HHS) to prioritize COVID-19 testing for those individuals at greatest risk, Quest recently implemented a Priority Specimen Handling Program to expedite testing and turnaround time results for Priority 1 (P1) patients—hospital inpatients and symptomatic healthcare workers. To further align our COVID-19 response effort with HHS recommendations, we are extending our COVID-19 Priority Specimen Handling Program to Priority 2 (P2) and Priority 3 (P3) patients.

Using colored Priority Handling Cards to assign Priority (P1, P2, P3) designations, this program will ensure prioritized testing for those in greatest need.

**Priority 1 Patients**
- Hospitalized patients
- Symptomatic healthcare workers

**Priority 2 Patients**
- Symptomatic patients in long-term care facilities
- Symptomatic patients over age 65 years
- Symptomatic patients with underlying conditions
- Symptomatic first responders

**Priority 3 Patients**
- Symptomatic critical infrastructure workers
- Symptomatic individuals who do not meet other categories
- Healthcare facility workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in hot zone communities

**Follow these instructions:**
1. Identify and separate priority COVID-19 specimens by P1, P2, and P3 designations.
2. Place each priority COVID-19 specimen in individual requisition bag with corresponding colored Priority Handling Card (order using part numbers shown on cards above).
3. Place all priority COVID-19 specimens in separate consolidation bag.
4. Maintain appropriate specimen temperature and place in standard pickup location.

**For Hospital Customers:** Using Quanum™ supplies ordering, order your Priority Handling Cards using Part #s FM18 (P1), FM121 (P2), and FM122 (P3).

**For Physician Customers:** For P2 and P3 Priority Handling Cards, use Quanum™ supplies ordering using Part #’s FM121 (P2), and FM122 (P3). Given strict limitations for P1 Priority Handling Card use in non-Hospital environments, Physicians will need to contact their Regional Client Supply Call Center to order P1 Priority Handling Cards.

Thank you for your support as we work together to prioritize COVID-19 testing for those patients in greatest need at this time.

Please reach out with any questions regarding this COVID-19 Priority Specimen Handling Program.