



Technical Bulletin

Discontinuation of DNA/RNA Shield Collection Media and DLS Central Testing for COVID-19 on ThermoFisher High-Throughput Platform

TO: Medical Staff and Clients

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SUBJECT: DNA/RNA Shield media and ThermoFisher COVID-19 testing will be discontinued

Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. (DLS) was compelled to field multiple types of collection media and multiple test platforms for SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) because no single supplier could meet the demand for supplies. Although we still experience periodic supply chain disruptions, which are not limited to COVID-19 testing, it is no longer practical to maintain high-throughput platforms from two different manufacturers.

The primary high-throughput platform at DLS is the Roche 6800, which in addition to SARS CoV-2 (recently classified as FDA approved in vitro diagnostic [IVD] versus Emergency Use Authorization [EUA]) is also used for *Chlamydia*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, HPV and viral load testing (HIV, HBV, HCV, and CMV). Because ThermoFisher does not have FDA approved tests for these agents, the clear choice is to stay with Roche. Effective **September 1, 2023** the ThermoFisher testing will shut down.

The DNA/RNA Shield is NOT compatible with Roche 6800, so that transport media will also be discontinued for SARS CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses (e.g., influenza and RSV). We ask that clients return unused media to their DLS representative in exchange for universal transport media (UTM). Submissions in DNA/RNA Shield after **September 1, 2023** cannot be tested and recollection will be required.

The practice of “tie breaker” testing (when a DLS Central result is different from a hospital or clinic-based test) will also no longer be an option. If there is uncertainty regarding results, consider collecting another specimen and send it for testing.

There is no change to ordering information; code 7179 was shared between the two platforms. Additional specimen collection information is available at the DLS Test Directory website: <https://til.dlslab.com/>.

Please refer any questions to your marketing representative, Jason Pon, Manager - DLS Molecular Laboratory at 808-589-5196, or DLS Client Services at 808-589-5101.

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