

Good Morning,

Beginning today, April 08, 2020, the Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (BADDL) has enacted a mission critical plan to reduce staffing at the laboratory during the Florida Safer at Home COVID-19, Executive Order Number 20-91. The laboratory will continue to receive and process limited samples from our clients. Clients dropping off samples should fill out paperwork and place the samples in the drop-off coolers in front of the Receiving doors. The goal is to continue to provide mission-critical services to the Animal Industries of Florida. Turnaround times could vary depending on availability of staff, but reasonable efforts will be made to provide quality results in timely manner.

BADDL will classify samples and necropsies into priority groups and will be processed accordingly.

Priority 1 - Samples will be processed immediately:

- Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs), National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) diseases, and Florida reportable and Zoonotic diseases.
 - <https://www.fdacs.gov/Consumer-Resources/Animals/Animal-Diseases/Reportable-Animal-Diseases>
 - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/lab-info-services/nahln/ct_NAHLN_Activities
 - https://www.aphis.usda.gov/emergency_response/downloads/nahems/fad.pdf
- Any samples from clinically ill, live animals submitted by veterinarians (swabs, exudate, urine and biopsies).
- Food and Fiber animals and Poultry Species will be tested first within this category.
- Forensic cases from governmental sources such as county animal services, police departments, or sheriff's offices.

Priority 2 - Samples will be processed when staffing allows:

- For samples that do not meet the above criteria (Priority 1), submitters will be given information of other diagnostic laboratories that may be accepting samples to avoid potential delays in testing. A list of AAVLD accredited labs can be found at <https://aavld.memberclicks.net/accredited-laboratories>.
- If submitter agrees to delayed testing of Priority 2 samples, the submitted samples will be stored in a refrigerator and tested as soon as staffing allows.

Necropsy Considerations:

Submitters are encouraged to call the laboratory prior to delivering necropsy submissions.

Based on the best scientific judgement of pathologist on the floor, a gross only necropsy will be performed on any case.

- Food animal species, FAD, Reportable and Zoonotic disease cases will be given priority. The specific daily prioritization will be determined by the pathologist on duty and/or Laboratory Director.
- BADDL may not accept other forensic, research, insurance-related necropsies of companion animals and horses. This decision will depend upon availability of staff and the necropsy cooler space.
- BADDL will only accept companion animal necropsies when there are potential contagious/infectious agents involved (Rabies, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, etc.).

We appreciate your patience and thoughtfulness as we are limiting our staffing and interactions during the COVID-19 response.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our BADDL team at 321-697-1400.