



IFBLS

International Federation of
Biomedical Laboratory Science

Meeting:

WHO Special Session of the Executive Board, 5-6 October 2020

Agenda Item 3:

Update on implementation of resolution WHA73.1 (2020) on the COVID-19 response

Statement:

The global COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in several challenges to health care systems in more than 185 countries. The World Health Organization promotes the mantra Test, Test, Test. The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) recognizes the significant efforts made by the World Health Organization and appreciates the continued communication and updates provided to all health care providers and the public.

Laboratory diagnostic services are using validated testing systems, initially distributed under emergency approval procedures, to enhance diagnostic and treatment capabilities for patient care. There are many unknown variables that affect clinical efficacy of test results, including sensitivity and specificity which can result in false negative or positive results. These have a detrimental effect on successful patient treatment.

Nucleic antigen amplification tests are currently the method of choice for diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2. Antigen testing is a useful alternative where the nucleic acid test is not available and antibody tests have a limited but important role to play in screening"

The IFBLS and its member associations are working, together with the regulatory bodies within their countries, to ensure quality testing is developed and delivered. The combination of complexity of adequate sampling, laboratory analysis and interpretation of results dictates these steps be performed by qualified professional staff such as biomedical laboratory scientists, or their equivalent.

The IFBLS fully supports the activities and actions that WHO has taken during this critical time and will continue to offer our assistance when requested. 239 words

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Wainwright

President

International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science

The 'Key to the Cure' since 1954

33 Wellington St. N., Hamilton, ON L8R 1M7 TEL.(905) 667-8695 FAX (905) 528 - 4968

E-mail:communications@ifbils.org

Non - Governmental Organization in Official Relations with the
World Health Organization and other UN Agencies