

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Local Health Document No. 2004

November 30, 2020

Dear President of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University,

Director of Okinawa Prefecture Public Health Department

(Official seal omitted)

Notification on Temporary Suspension of Administrative Gene Tests for Novel Coronavirus

Thank you very much for your continuous cooperation for the Okinawa Prefecture's measures to prevent infectious diseases.

We are especially grateful to you for your cooperation for the Okinawa Prefecture's PCR administrative testing during the past seven months from May to November. We would like to express our sincere thanks to you, since with your help, we had overcome the difficult period when the testing facilities had been limited in Okinawa. In addition, we were able to provide rapid and accurate testing for the patients with novel coronavirus infection and their close contacts, by which countermeasures to prevent further spread of the infection had been taken.

Until recently, there had been only a limited number of facilities in Okinawa where real-time PCR were operable, and the prefecture has subsidized the equipment to private laboratories and then promoted to increase the number of facilities. As a result, currently, there are eight health laboratories and 21 medical facilities that can perform PCR tests, and we would like these laboratories to actively take part in the administrative testing.

Accordingly, we have decided to temporarily suspend the commissioning of administrative PCR testing to your university. But if the number of administrative testing increases and the situation becomes strenuous again, we would like to ask your university to resume the administrative testing on the current project. We would appreciate your understanding on this matter.

Separate from the above, we plan to request your university to cooperate for a new PCR test project for elderly care facilities, which will be implemented by the prefecture and the municipalities some time in or after January 2021. We will inform you the details as soon as the project plan is finalized, and we would appreciate your continued support.

Suspension period of commissioned PCR administrative tests: From December 1, 2020 (Tuesday) until further notification is made

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