DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY SERVICES, INC.

Technical Memorandum

To: Physicians, Clinical Staff and Clients

From: A. Christian Whelen, PhD, D(ABMM)
V.P. / Technical Director (Microbiology)

Dr. Wesley Kim, M.D., Medical Director

Date: March 13, 2019

Subject: Expanded availability of QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus testing in Hawaii (Revised)

Effective March 18, 2019, DLS is expanding the availability of QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) used to assess patient tuberculosis status. Patients can now have their blood collected (6mL Lithium Heparin) from **all Hawaii patient service centers statewide,** with no restrictions on collection time during patient service centers normal business hours. For patient service centers and hours of operation, please visit dlslab.com.

The QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus assay is an in vitro diagnostic laboratory test that has been optimized to detect gamma interferon produced by both CD4 and CD8 cells in response to specific *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens rather than CD4 cells alone. The CD8 response is important in children, recent exposures, active TB, and co-infections with HIV, so this assay has improved sensitivity in these population without compromising specificity.

CDC recommends using an IGRA like QFT-Gold Plus for a majority of the U.S. population. It is preferred over tuberculin skin testing (TST) for:

- Those likely to be infected with TB (latent or active).
- Anyone with low or intermediate risk of disease progression.
- Those who are BCG-vaccinated, or unlikely to return to have their TST read.

Please refer any questions to Susan Krause, at 589-5126, Dr. Wes Kim at 589-5131, Dr. Chris Whelen at 589-5215, or DLS Client Services at 589-5101.