



**ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY**

*Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.*

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**AMP Reiterates Importance of Testing as a Vital Component for Combating the Spread of  
Omicron and other COVID-19 Variants this Winter**

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AMP applauds all individuals taking actions to limit the spread of Omicron and other COVID-19 variants this holiday season. As the fast-spreading Omicron variant leads to another likely surge in the coming weeks, we are reminded once again that easily-accessible and timely diagnostic testing **must** be a top priority now and for any future infectious disease outbreaks.

For the past two years, AMP members have been managing the ever-increasing demand for laboratory testing despite numerous regulatory, reimbursement, supply-chain, logistical, and communications challenges. The overall lack of a coordinated national COVID-19 testing response is unacceptable.

While efforts announced by the White House today to increase the availability of at-home tests and federal testing sites in the near future are a step in the right direction, they will not overcome all of the obstacles that limit timely testing. The country is once again facing a testing shortage, which will only be further exacerbated by FDA's plans to pull what the agency deems to be "non-priority COVID-19 tests" off the market as early as February. This action will impede the ability of private laboratories,

including many academic medical centers, reference laboratories, and community health systems across the country, to rapidly develop, validate, and offer high-quality, innovative tests for use on their local patient populations. Now is not the time to reduce laboratory capacity in the U.S.

Local and community-based laboratories have been and will continue to play a crucial role in the country's efforts to meet testing demand. Going forward, we need to strengthen our public health and clinical laboratory collaborations, stabilize the supply chain, and move toward a more efficient, flexible, and modern regulatory system. AMP remains committed to sharing our expertise and engaging key stakeholders to help improve patient care and ensure more Americans have timely access to high-quality testing procedures.