



**ARC-ONDERSTEPSPOORT VETERINARY RESEARCH**  
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Dear Client,

**RE: ESSENTIAL LABORATORY SERVICES**

As you are aware, a State of Disaster was declared in terms of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002. Although laboratory services have been identified as an essential service that should continue, the Agricultural Research Council is committed to ensuring the safety of its employees and contributing to national efforts to abate the spread of COVID-19.

We therefore regret to inform you that only essential diagnostic services will be maintained as per the directive issued by the Chief Directorate: Animal Production and Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on 24 March 2020. The essential laboratories are:

1. Transboundary Animal Disease Laboratory, with specific emphasis on foot-and-mouth disease and African swine fever;
2. Virology laboratory; and
3. Rabies laboratory.

The activities of all other diagnostic laboratories at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Campus are suspended for the duration of the National Lockdown. Arrangements have been made for emergency services to be provided in support of National Disease Control programmes, but will only be available after consultation with and direction from Department of Agriculture Land and Rural Development Veterinary directorate.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely,

P.P.

**DR MISHECK MULUMBA**  
**SENIOR MANAGER RESEARCH: ANIMAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION**