



25 March 2020

Dear Technical Assessor

COVID-19 UPDATE

As you are well aware, we are currently in a period of unprecedented uncertainty and concern for all Australians due to the increasing spread of the Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) within Australia and globally.

In my letter dated 13 March 2020 to applicant and accredited facilities, I advised that NATA had introduced a policy of no air travel for our staff and technical assessors to reduce the potential risk of exposure to COVID-19 for our members, our staff and their families. I also advised that NATA was developing a process to conduct assessments remotely.

In my letter dated 24 March 2020, I confirmed that NATA will no longer be conducting on-site assessments effective immediately. I also confirmed that remote assessments, as an interim measure, will be conducted as one-off replacements for scheduled reassessments and surveillance visits which are currently due or will fall due during the pandemic. This applies to all facilities except those accredited in our Human Pathology accreditation program (ISO 15189).

Remote assessments will allow NATA to continue to offer its accreditation services, and maintain the necessary trust and confidence that accreditation and accredited conformity assessment bodies provide to the Australian community. The conduct of remote assessments as an interim measure will remain in place until it is safe for NATA to resume on-site assessments.

The remote assessment process will involve the review of requested documentation and records from accredited facilities. The NATA lead assessor will specifically identify those documents and records to be submitted based on the type of conformity assessment activities performed. Your involvement as a technical assessor may be requested by the lead assessor should any documentation or records require specific technical review. Should this be necessary, the lead assessor will liaise with you by telephone or electric means to determine your availability, appreciating that the current COVID pandemic is also having an impact on both your personal and business lives.

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For our Human Pathology accreditation program (ISO 15189), an alternative interim approach has been drafted due to the significant disruptions and pressures pathology laboratories are experiencing. NATA is currently awaiting urgent feedback from the Australian Government whether the alternative approach will satisfy the Pathology Regulatory Framework. Our proposed approach will give pathology laboratories a reprieve for a short period, subject to review, as the situation evolves.

I value the significant voluntary contributions made by all of our technical assessors and thank you for allowing NATA to continue to offer its accreditation services during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Evans', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Evans
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER