



August 18, 2020

Contact: Meghan Riley

mriley@dc-crd.org

NILA Applauds Clinical Reference Laboratory for Launching Saliva-Based COVID-19 Test

The National Independent Laboratory Association (NILA) congratulates its member, Clinical Reference Laboratory (CRL), for its recent groundbreaking advancement in COVID-19 testing. Last month Clinical Reference Laboratory (CRL), one of the largest privately held clinical testing laboratories in the United States, received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for CRL Rapid Response™, a saliva-based COVID-19 RT-PCR test that can be self-collected at home, at work or in other settings. CRL Rapid Response™ is the first large-scale service of its kind focused on the American workforce. The test detects the presence of COVID-19 in a saliva sample and was shown in CRL's EUA studies to be more sensitive and accurate than the COVID-19 anterior nasal swab test. Virtually anyone can self-collect an adequate sample for testing, with results available in 24-48 hours of receipt at CRL. The entrance of CRL Rapid Response™ into the market transforms the COVID-19 testing landscape.

CRL is currently scaling up capacity to conduct COVID-19 tests on a large scale, aiming for 50,000 tests a day. CRL Rapid Response™ enters the market as the U.S. continues to face testing supply shortages and individuals experience long wait times for their test results. "If it can be scaled up quickly, this test will increase COVID-19 testing capacity and ease the demand on certain testing supplies, such as nasopharyngeal swabs, which NILA member laboratories report have been in short supply throughout the pandemic," stated Mark Birenbaum, Ph.D., executive director of NILA. "Further, because the samples can be self-collected, CRL Rapid Response™ stands to dramatically streamline the testing infrastructure, making testing more accessible to employers and institutions that need to reopen safely without sacrificing accuracy," Birenbaum said.

"Innovation by independent laboratories like CRL is essential to increasing the nation's COVID-19 testing capacity and allowing Americans to safely return to work and school. We need to see investment by the federal government in tests like the CRL Rapid Response™ to diminish the spread of COVID-19 in this country. Regional and community independent laboratories are fostering the innovation necessary to respond to the pandemic," Birenbaum stated, "and they deserve the financial support of federal and state governments and other funding agencies to expand and improve their efforts."

#

NILA members are independent community and regional clinical laboratories working with physician practices, hospitals, outpatient care settings, skilled nursing facilities and home health patients to provide essential clinical laboratory services to Medicare beneficiaries, particularly those in underserved communities and hard to reach care settings.