

10 Sept 2020

TO: Stakeholders of the UK Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratories

FROM: The University of Kentucky Extension Plant Pathology Team

RE: Update of Operations for Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab (PDDL) During the COVID-19 Threat
(Updated portion is highlighted)

We, the members of the University of Kentucky Extension Plant Pathology Team, would like to thank the Extension Agents and County Extension Staff for your patience over the past months as we have tried to navigate the extremely challenging circumstances imposed on the PDDL operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic thus far. With consideration of both our responsibilities as plant doctors for the Commonwealth and our responsibilities to safeguard our own health and that of others, we provide the following updated guidelines for managing our responsibilities during the re-opening phases in Kentucky.

Lexington PDDL Laboratory

Until further notice, operations of the Lexington PDDL will be as follows:

- Commercial and residential samples delivered via postal mail or courier service, and originating from County Extension Offices, will be evaluated.
- No out-of-state samples will be received at this time.
- During regular business hours (8:00 am-4:30 pm), walk-in (drop-off) samples from Extension agents and the general public will be received ***only*** at a designated station adjacent to the main entrance to the laboratory. Paperwork and forms will be available at that station.
- All relevant information must be communicated on the forms.
- The diagnostic staff will be unavailable for consultation for general public sample submissions.

UKREC-GFC PDDL Laboratory

Until further notice, operations of the UKREC-GFC PDDL Laboratory will reflect the opening of the UKREC-GFC to the public as of 20 Jul 2020. Our operations will be as follows:

- Commercial and residential samples delivered via postal mail or courier service, and originating from County Extension Offices, will be evaluated.
- No out-of-state samples will be received at this time.
- During regular business hours (8:00 am to 4:30 pm), walk-in (drop-off) samples from the general public will be received ***only*** at a designated station in the lobby of the center.
- We encourage the public to submit samples through your local County Extension Office if able to do so.
- The receptionist will inform stakeholders of the receiving station.
- All relevant information must be communicated on the forms at the station.
- The diagnostic staff will be unavailable for consultation for general public sample submissions.

Our circumstances continue to be somewhat fluid and depend upon the ability of our staff members to practice social distancing while at work, thus the scenario under which we operate, and our operation guidelines, may change. Extension Agents and Staff will be apprised of any further changes with as much notice as possible.

We appreciate your understanding and are eager to move forward in providing plant diagnostic support.

Plant Pathology Extension Group