



Chinese American Pathologists Association
PO Box 370, West Roxbury, MA 02132

March 23, 2020

RE: CAPA recommends AB team scheduling to protect and perverse lab workforce

Dear CAPA member and Laboratory Medical Director,

Chinese American Pathologists Association (CAPA) is an IRS registered NPO of more than 600 pathologist members and strives to support pathologists and lab professionals. The COVID-19 has become increasingly prevalent in the U.S. Many hospitals cancelled elective surgeries which led to reduced workloads in the lab. Recent reports also show that the disease may be airborne [1-4]. Therefore, we discussed and respectfully recommend to use an A/B team scheduling to reduce possible personnel reduction due to cross-infection. You may have considered or done something similar.

In the A/B team scheduling, only one team is on service at a time. In an unfortunate case of infection in one or more members of the team A, you will still have the team B as the backup workforce. While the second team is on service, the first team could use the time to quarantine or recover. If possible, we also recommend the A/B/C team scheduling. In this system, you will have three teams to work separately. Similar to the AB team scheduling, one team is on service at a time, and there will be two teams as back up for a longer coverage time.

This strategy may protect and perverse the pathologist workforce, as well as other lab professionals. The AB or ABC team scheduling has been implemented in several hospitals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. We find that it is effective. Of course, this recommendation is for your reference only. Thank you for your consideration! Stay well and safe during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

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CAPA President, 2020-2021

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Disclaimer: Opinions expressed here are solely those of the individuals, not of the affiliated hospital.

Reference:

1. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v2>
2. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/16/who-considers-airborne-precautions-for-medical-staff-after-study-shows-coronavirus-can-survive-in-air.html>
3. <https://www.northcom.mil/Coronavirus/>
4. <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-disease-2019-vs-the-flu>