

Cancellation of malaria on-call service in the evening, on weekends and on public holidays

Dear Senders of samples for malaria diagnostics,

We would like to inform you of an important change regarding malaria emergency diagnostics (microscopy) at the Swiss TPH Diagnostic Centre!

From March 1, 2025, the Diagnostic Centre will **no longer offer a malaria microscopy emergency service during the evening, on weekends and on public holidays**. However, we will continue to offer our malaria diagnostic service on weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm.

This results in the following important changes for malaria diagnostics:

- Samples for malaria microscopy that arrive at our laboratory by **5 pm** on weekdays (Mon-Fri) will continue to be processed **immediately** and the results will be communicated as usual by telephone within approximately **two hours of receiving the sample**.
- Samples for malaria microscopy that arrive at our laboratory **after 5 pm** on working days and on **Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays** will be processed on the **next working day** (Mon-Fri 8 am-5 pm).
- Please continue to notify us of any malaria diagnostics samples by telephone (Tel.: 061 284 82 61).
- Attending doctors will still be available via the emergency telephone of the Centre for Tropical and Travel Medicine (24 hours / 7 days) via the number 061 284 81 44. This service is intended exclusively for questions to doctors regarding the diagnosis and treatment of possible tropical/parasitic diseases.

We ask you to adapt the procedures for malaria emergency diagnostics in your laboratory accordingly by March 1, 2025. For emergencies in the evening, on weekends or on public holidays, a validated rapid test or a malaria LAMP test can be carried out on site as the initial diagnostic test. Malaria microscopy should still be conducted after the start of treatment. For this purpose, thick and thin blood smears have to be prepared during the initial diagnosis, and sent together with the blood sample to the Swiss TPH Diagnostic Centre. We will continue to offer our normal microscopy service during normal working hours.

Please note also our new order form, on which the adjustments to our services can be seen.

<https://www.swisstph.ch/en/activities/diagnostic-centre>

If you have any questions about our analyses, you can contact us at any time on weekdays between 8 am and 5 pm on Tel.: 061 284 82 56.

If you have any questions regarding the cancellation of the malaria on-call service, you can contact us on the numbers below.

We thank you for your continued trust and for taking note of these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Beatrice Nickel

Head of Diagnostic Centre

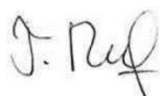
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