

DATE:	2022 March 21
TO:	Physicians and clinicians who manage COVID-19 patients in North, Central, and South Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
RE:	Cessation of Rapid Covid-19 Serology Testing in North, Central, and South Zones

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Key Message

- Starting March 21, 2022, rapid COVID-19 serology testing will be suspended in regional hospital-based APL labs in Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and DynaLife (inpatient) in Fort McMurray and High Level.
- The drug (REGEN-COV; casirivimab/imdevimab) has been withdrawn now from the AHS formulary and is no longer available.
- While rapid serology testing is not required for the time being, we will continue to monitor data as the pandemic evolves.
- At present, there are no COVID-19 treatments recommended by the AHS COVID-19 Therapeutics group that require serology prior to administration.

Background

- Rapid serology testing was introduced to evaluate emergency room patients being admitted and hospital in-patients with newly diagnosed COVID-19 for eligibility for receipt of the monoclonal antibody product casirivimab/imdevimab (REGEN-COV). This drug is no longer available due to lack of activity against the Omicron variant, which has now completely replaced the previous COVID-19 variants (to which the drug did have activity).

How this will impact you

- Physicians and other clinicians will no longer be able to order Rapid COVID-19 Serology as of March 21, 2022 as this test will be discontinued. There are presently no COVID-19 treatments that require a COVID-19 serology test to administer.
- COVID-19 serology testing is however still available through the Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab, APL) for indications outlined as per previous APL COVID-19 Serology bulletins ([Serology Testing for COVID-19 \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://www.albertahealthservices.ca)).

Effective

- March 21, 2022

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical & Scientific Director, Public Health Laboratory, APL