

DATE:	2022 June 2
TO:	Former David Thompson Health Region Physicians, Nursing Staff, and other Health Care Providers
FROM:	APL Red Deer Microbiology
RE:	Change of Testing Methodology for Detection of <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> (Group A <i>Streptococcus</i>) from Throat Swabs

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Key Message

- Effective **June 1, 2022** Alberta Precision Laboratories in Red Deer will be changing the methodology used for the detection of *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Group A *Streptococcus*) in throat swabs from patients with suspected bacterial pharyngitis to culture on the Colorex™ StrepA CHROMagar.

Background

- The currently used test, Hologic's Group A Streptococcus direct DNA probe assay, has been discontinued by the manufacturer, necessitating a change in testing platform.

How this will impact you

- Culture based detection of *S. pyogenes* on the Colorex™ StrepA CHROMagar has equivalent performance characteristics compared to the current method.
- Turnaround time for results will remain unchanged (1 day from receipt of specimen in the laboratory)
- Sensitivity testing will still be performed for *S. pyogenes* isolates identified on the CHROMagar where a history of penicillin allergy is indicated.
- Standard culture for all organisms that may cause pharyngitis will still be performed when:
 - recurrence or treatment failure is indicated.
 - suspicion of infection with *Arcanobacterium haemolyticum*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, Group C/G *Streptococcus*, or yeast is indicated.

Action Required

- No changes to ordering, specimen collection or handling are required.**
- See the [APL Test Directory](#) for further information on ordering, collection, and transport requirements.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Michael Groeschel, MD, Medical Microbiology, michael.groeschel@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Angela Tone, Supervisor, RDRH Microbiology, angela.tone@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Dylan Pillai MD PhD, Medical Director, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories