

<b>DATE:</b>	2022 January 24
<b>TO:</b>	Health Care Practitioners & Continuing Care Sites
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Expired GDL and Saline Media for microbiology testing (including COVID-19)</b>

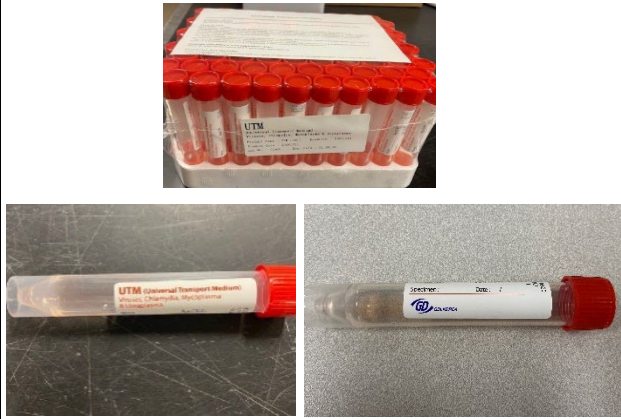
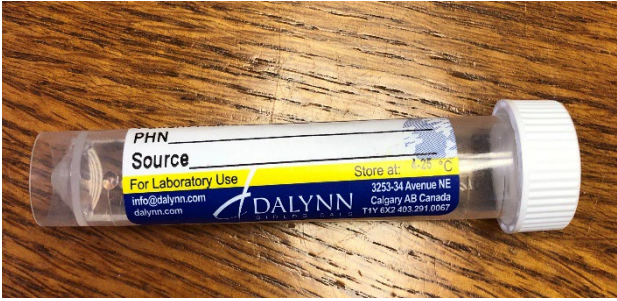
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### Key Messages

- All GDL Universal Transport Medium (UTM) in Alberta expired on or before September 30, 2021 and should not be used.
- All saline transport media in Alberta expired on or before June 30, 2021 and should not be used.
- Samples submitted in GDL UTM or saline media for microbiology testing (including COVID-19 nucleic acid testing) will be canceled, as quality of results of PCR testing may not be reliable. A comment indicating this will be included on the laboratory report. Recollection of a patient sample is warranted if clinically indicated

Product name	Product number	Oracle number	Product appearance
GDL SWAB UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIUM (UTM)	GDLS1012	366104	
SALINE TRANSPORT MEDIA  (Oracle name: Tube transport viral AHS flat bottom sterile saline 0.85% medium 3mL)	TS85-03U-100	366263	



## **Background**

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, various collection media and swabs have been issued to facilities and sites across the province as supply was available in Alberta.
- Collection media has specific shelf life or expiry dates provided from manufacturers of collection media.

## **Actions Required**

- Do not use GDL UTM and saline transport media for the collection of specimens for COVID-19 or any other testing.
- GDL UTM (product number GDLS1012) and Saline Transport Media (TS85-03U-100) can be returned to the Public Health Laboratory using the same transportation method used to transport patient samples. Please mark the bag containing the products "Return to ProvLab".
- If you require more COVID-19 and respiratory virus collection kits, order them through your routine process.

## **Inquiries and feedback may be directed to**

- Maria Falsetti, Manager, Public Health Laboratory, APL ([maria.falsetti@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:maria.falsetti@albertaprecisionlabs.ca))

## **Approved by**

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