


DATE:	2021 October 13
TO:	Health Care Practitioners in Alberta
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
RE:	Expired GDL Universal Transport Medium

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- All GDL Universal Transport Medium (UTM) swabs in Alberta expired on or before September 30, 2021 and should not be used.
- Samples submitted in GDL UTM for COVID-19 testing will still be processed, but results of PCR testing may not be reliable. A comment indicating this will be included on the report.

Product name	Product number	Oracle number	Product appearance
GDL SWAB UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIUM	GDLS1012	366104	

Background

- A [previous bulletin](#) indicated that the expiration date of UTM manufactured by YOCON had been extended. This extension applies only YOCON UTM. For all other media, the expiry date on the tube is correct and media not used beyond expiry.
- While samples collected in expired media will still be processed and tested, results should be interpreted with caution as the impact on test performance has not been clearly established. If clinically indicated, the specimen may be recollected.

Actions Required

- Do not use GDL UTM for the collection of specimens for COVID-19 or any other testing.
- GDL UTM (product number GDLS1012) and any other transport medium that has expired can be returned to ProvLab. Please contact Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca for information.
- If you require more COVID-19 and respiratory virus collection kits, order them through your routine process.



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Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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Approved by

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