

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 September 27
<b>TO:</b>	All Health Care Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
<b>RE:</b>	<b>REVISED: HIV Serology Testing Delays</b>

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### Key Message

- Due to current supply issues with the manufacturer, we are experiencing shortages of Abbott HIV Ab/Ag serologic test reagents resulting in delays in testing for HIV.
- ProVLab is prioritizing patient samples as follows: in-patients, transplant, blood/body fluid & STAT approved consults.
- At this time supplies will arrive next week, and the delayed samples will be processed urgently by APL laboratories next week.

### Background

- On September 22, 2021, APL was informed by Abbott of supply shortages for the HIV Ab/Ab test which is run on the Abbott Architect instrument.
- The Abbott HIV Ab/Ag test is a screening assay for HIV infections, with a usual turn-around time of 48 hours, excluding confirmatory testing.
- The current test supply issues are resulting in some samples being delayed for 3 to 5 days.
- Prioritization of testing has been established as a short-term mitigation strategy until the supply issue is resolved.

### Actions required

- No actions are required – continue to fill out the correct patient and sample information when ordering HIV testing on requisitions or in the clinical information system (CIS) as is current practice
- For STAT requests, first consult with the Microbiologist/Virologist-on-Call (Calgary 403 333 4942) or Edmonton (780 407 8822) for approval.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Kevin Fonseca, Clinical Virologist, APL – Public Health Laboratory, [kevin.fonseca@aplabs.ca](mailto:kevin.fonseca@aplabs.ca)

### Approved by

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