

DATE:	2022 May 25
TO:	Lab Directors and Physicians
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
RE:	Transport medium for Leishmania culture and PCR

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Key Message

- For cutaneous leishmaniasis laboratory workup (culture and/or PCR), tissue (biopsy, scraping) or aspirate samples can be collected in either sterile saline solution (0.9% NaCl) or leishmania transport medium.
- All samples collected in saline must be received in the lab within 24h of collection.
- Physicians should contact the APL- Public Health Laboratory Microbiologist on-call for approval BEFORE collecting a sample.

Background

- Leishmaniasis is diagnosed by detecting parasite or its DNA in tissues and fluids by microscopy, culture, molecular methods, and - in visceral leishmaniasis – by serology.
- Previously, leishmania transport medium was provided to the clinicians before each sample collection. This often resulted in unnecessary delays and compromised quality of testing.
- To expedite the process, submitters will now be able to use sterile saline for specimen collection.

Action Required

- Please contact the APL-Public Health Laboratory Microbiologist/Virologist on Call at 780-407-8822 (Edmonton) or 403-944-1200 (Calgary) before collection or requesting a test for leishmaniasis (serology or culture).
- Send specimens in Leishmania transport medium or sterile saline to the laboratory immediately after collection.
Click below for details
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexAPL.asp?id=8439&tests=&zoneid=1&details=true>
- If ordering in Connect Care use the Leishmania Culture order. Otherwise use an APL- Public Health Laboratory requisition and indicate test and clinical details in “other”. NOTE travel history must be provided for each request.

Questions/Concernstt

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