

<b>DATE:</b>	1 October 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Healthcare Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Provincial Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Viral Transport Media Supply Ordering Change</b>


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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

- Effective October 1, 2024 Universal transport medium (UTM)/ viral transport medium (VTM) can be ordered by all locations directly from AHS CPSM.
- Locations that currently order UTM/VTM directly from the Provincial Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) should discontinue submitting orders to ProvLab in Edmonton and Calgary.
- These kits as shown below, can be ordered by all sites using the existing processes used to order other collection supplies.

Product name	Product number	Oracle number	Unit of measure	Product appearance
SWAB NASOPHARYNGEAL FLOCKED IN VIAL W/3ML UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA	UT-317	398170	Each	

### Background

- UTM/VTM is used when collecting swabs for virus and syphilis nucleic acid testing (NAT/PCR). This includes respiratory viruses (such as SARS-CoV-2, influenza, RSV), mumps, measles, and viruses causing skin and mucosal lesions or eye infections (such as HSV, VZV, Mpox, and enterovirus).
- Historically, these supplies were available from the Provincial Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) and orders submitted directly to the lab for fulfillment.
- Current distribution model has been reviewed and ordering the supplies directly from the AHS warehouse will further optimize the inventory and improve distribution.

### Action Required

- Effective October 1, 2024 discontinue submitting orders for UTM/VTM supplies to ProvLab for fulfillment
- Order supplies by:
  - Requisition orders placed in Oracle using **Oracle number 398170**
  - Adding to existing supply cart order top up systems. Please follow your regular process to have this item added to your clinical supply carts as required.



- For Community Providers, orders can be placed on the AHS Online Ordering portal [AHS Supplies Ordering - Sign In \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](https://albertahealthservices.ca/SuppliesOrdering-SignIn)

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to**

- Maria Falsetti, Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health, APL ([Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca](mailto:Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca))
- Regan Wolansky, Director Infrastructure Planning and Contract Management ([Regan.Wolansky@aplabs.ca](mailto:Regan.Wolansky@aplabs.ca))

**Approved by**

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

*Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.*