



Date: November 3, 2020
To: Calgary Zone Clinicians
From: Microbiology, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: APTIMA® collection kit shortage for *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) testing in Alberta

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Key Message:

- Effective **immediately**, please restrict *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) testing only to individuals at high risk or symptomatic for TV, or with specific indications.

Why this is Important:

- There is a province-wide shortage of APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kit supplies for TV, *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC).
- These kits are currently the only collection devices available for TV testing in Alberta.
- These shortages are due to stressed global supply chains associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to persist through the winter into 2021.

Background:

- Calgary Zone is the only zone in Alberta using TV nucleic acid testing (NAT).
- Rates of TV are low in the Calgary zone: in 2019, the positivity rate was 1.2% with a highly sensitive NAT.

Action Required:

- 1) Limit asymptomatic screening for TV.
- 2) Prioritize TV testing only for individuals with persistent vaginitis symptoms where bacterial vaginosis and vulvovaginal candidiasis has been ruled out
- 3) Please see Provincial bulletin regarding prioritization of CT/GC testing:
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-hp-bulletin-aptima-collection-kit-shortage-for-chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-testing-in-alberta.pdf>
- 4) If testing for CT/GC and APTIMA® swab or urine test kits are available for your patient, TV testing can be performed on the same specimen if also required.
- 5) If Aptima kits are not available for symptomatic women, consult the APL Calgary Microbiologist-on-Call at 403-770-3757.
- 6) Sites may receive a different swab collection kits than what was ordered. Refer to the [APL Test Directory](#) for more information.

Inquiries and Feedback

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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