

DATE:	15 May 2023
TO:	Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Providers
FROM:	APL Microbiology
RE:	Change of Collection Container for Stool Culture

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- **Effective immediately**, the use of transport media for bacterial stool culture is being discontinued. Samples for stool culture should be submitted in a sterile container.
- There are no changes to collection for parasite testing. Continue to submit stool specimen in both a container with SAF preservative **and** a sterile container without preservative.

Background

- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital (GPRH) Microbiology now only performs stool culture for patients within GPRH hospital. Delays in transport are unlikely, and transport media is no longer required.
- These changes will align North Zone with other zones in Alberta.

How this will impact you

- There are no changes to test ordering, and there will be no changes to result reporting.

Action Required

- Stool specimens collected for stool culture should be collected in **sterile containers without transport media**.
- Stool specimen should be transported to the laboratory as quickly as possible after collection.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. William Stokes, Medical Microbiologist, APL Provincial Laboratory for Public Health, William.Stokes@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Thomas Griener, Medical Microbiologist, APL Provincial Laboratory for Public Health, Thomas.Griener@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Kaila Crawford, Associate Medical Director, Rural and Regional Laboratories, APL North Sector