



Date: November 25, 2020
To: Physicians, nurses, healthcare practitioners using Cardinal Health to order Aptima® collection kits
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories
Re: Changes to ordering Aptima collection kits from Cardinal Health

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective immediately all APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kit supplies will be managed through AHS warehouses in Calgary and Edmonton and will no longer be available through direct order from Cardinal or Hologic.

Why this is Important:

- There is a province-wide shortage of APTIMA® swabs and urine collection kit supplies for, *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) (all zones) and *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) (Calgary Zone testing only).
- Clinicians are asked to continue to prioritize and restrict testing as appropriate. Refer to corresponding bulletins:
- **APTIMA collection kit shortage for Chlamydia and gonorrhea testing in Alberta :**
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-hp-bulletin-aptima-collection-kit-shortage-for-chlamydia-and-gonorrhea-testing-in-alberta.pdf>
- **APTIMA® collection kit shortage for Trichomonas vaginalis (TV) testing in Alberta**
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-hp-bulletin-aptima-collection-kit-shortage-for-trichomonas-vaginalis-tv-testing-in-alberta.pdf>

Background:

- Aptima swabs are to be used exclusively for STI testing due to the global supply chain shortages associated with the pandemic.
- Alternative collection kits are available for COVID-19 testing
- These shortages are expected to persist through the winter into 2021.

Action Required:

- To efficiently utilize limited provincial collection kit resources, requests for Aptima collection supplies must be submitted using the Requisition Form for STI Consumable Products:
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/if-lab-tc-sti-supplies-request-form.xlsx>
and submitted to CPSM at: CPSMOperations.EOC@AlbertaHealthServices.ca
- Order requests should be based on what is required for your location on a monthly basis and quantities will be filled based on product availability.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Julie Carson, Medical Microbiologist, APL-Calgary; julie.carson@aplabs.ca
- Kathy Sokol, SPD, CPSM Zone Operations; katherine.sokol@albertahealthservices.ca
- Maureen Cyfra, Director Technical Operations South Sector, APL; maureen.cyfra@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Leland Baskin, Associate Medical Director, APL: Leland.baskin@aplabs.ca