

DATE:	21 February 2023
TO:	All Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL): Public Health Laboratory & Point of Care Testing (POCT)
RE:	Discontinuation of COVID-19 Testing on Abbott ID NOW For Non-Acute Care Sites

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

This message applies to Abbott ID NOW COVID-19 testing at all assessment centres and sites servicing vulnerable populations within Alberta with support from APL. It does not apply to ID NOW COVID-19 testing at rural acute care sites.

ID NOW COVID-19 testing will no longer be available as of March 14, 2023.

- ID NOW test kits supplied to the province will expire on or before March 2023.
- There are no plans to acquire additional COVID-19 test kits.

Other testing options for COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses will continue to be performed at an APL-Public Health Laboratory or a regional APL laboratory.

Action Required

Expired ID NOW COVID-19 test kits are to be discarded through normal disposal procedures.

- Special biosafety or chemical waste systems are not required.

ID NOW devices, accessories, and documentation should be returned to APL Public Health Lab directly or through APL POCT. Prior to device returns, your site must complete the following:

1. Remove ALL patient results from the device prior to decontamination (**Appendix 1**).
2. Decontaminate the ID NOW device prior to ID NOW device transport (**Appendix 2**).
3. Complete the "Proof of Decontamination Form" (**Appendix 3**).
4. Package the ID NOW device, accessories, and documentation in a transport box. Ensure the following are included:
 - The decontaminated ID NOW device, in its original box and packaging.
 - The completed "Proof of Decontamination Form" (**Appendix 3**).
 - All ID NOW accessories, in their original boxes and packaging. This includes: white ID NOW power cable, label printer, black label printer power cables, black label printer USB cable, and handheld scanner (if applicable).
 - If applicable, ALL hardcopy Quality Control Log Sheets and Maintenance Records you have on file for the ID NOW device(s), from the beginning of the program until the time the device(s) were decommissioned.
5. For POCT device returns and inquiries, please contact:

South & Calgary Zone	Calgary.POCT@aplabs.ca	Attention: Marina Schirock
Central, Edmonton, & North Zone	Edmonton.POCT@aplabs.ca	Attention: Ivy Sarmiento
6. Non-AHS sites:
To arrange device transport to APL Public Health Lab North (ProvLab), please contact Maria Falsetti, Director, Prov Lab for Public Health, APL at Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca



References

- ID NOW POCT decontamination procedure:
[PO23-004 Provincial POCT Abbott ID NOW for COVID-19 - Cleaning and Disinfection](#)
- ID NOW POCT proof of decontamination form:
[PO23-004F02 Provincial POCT - Abbott ID NOW for COVID-19 Proof of Decontamination Form](#)

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Will Stokes, Medical Microbiologist, APL, William.Stokes@aplabs.ca

Approved by

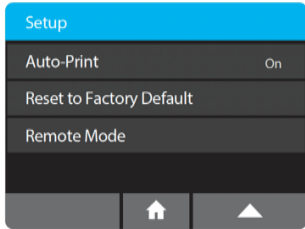
- Dr. Graham Tipples, Provincial Medical Director, Public Health, APL
- Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, APL
- Dr. Dylan Pillai, South Sector Medical Director, APL
- Dr. Allison Venner, Provincial Medical Lead, POCT, APL




Appendix 1: Instructions on removing patient result data from ID NOW device.

**Perform this step prior to decontaminating the ID NOW device (Appendix 2).

4.18 Reset To Factory Default (Admin Access Only)
 Home>Setup>Reset to Factory Default



Reset to Factory Default can be accessed through the Setup screen and allows the Admin to return the instrument to the default factory settings.

 **Caution:** This will delete all users, patient test results, and QC results from the instrument. It is recommended that any desired data be exported before performing this function.

Appendix 2: Decontamination procedure of ID NOW COVID-19 instrument prior to transport.

**Patient result data is to be removed before proceeding with decontamination (Appendix 1).

Step	Action	
1	Perform hand hygiene and don gloves.	
2	Power down and unplug the instrument from the electrical outlet.	
3	Obtain lint-free cloth and dampen with 10% bleach solution.	Ensure no excess liquid is used when cleaning as it may damage the instrument. Do not use paper towels Do not saturate lint-free cloth
4	Carefully wipe the exterior instrument surfaces and the surfaces visible under the open lid. Allow to dry. Note: Do not wipe any of the orange or blue surfaces on the instrument.	Do not spray or pour solution directly onto instrument when cleaning
5	Repeat steps 3 and 4 using a 70% ethanol solution.	
6	Discard damp lint-free cloth in the appropriate container.	
7	Doff gloves and perform hand hygiene.	



Appendix 3: ID NOW COVID-19 proof of decontamination form.

ID NOW Serial Number:	Printer Serial Number:
Sending Location	Site: Department/Clinical Section: Primary Contact:
Receiving Location/Address	Site: Department/Clinical Section: Primary Contact:
Reason: <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioned/Sent for Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Relocation <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal <input type="checkbox"/> Returned to vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Off-site repair	
Equipment was exposed to body fluid, blood, or tissue borne pathogens? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If pathogens are known, please specify:	
Equipment was used with other biohazardous materials <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No If yes, specify hazardous materials:	
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that all exposed surfaces of this piece of laboratory equipment have been decontaminated as outlined in Appendix 2 of this bulletin.	
Date:	
Name:	Signature: _____

Instructions:

- Attach original form securely to the ID NOW instrument.

APL POCT Review

APL POCT Technologist:	Date:	Comments:
<input type="checkbox"/> Decontamination		
<input type="checkbox"/> Result Removal		