

DATE:	September 21, 2021
TO:	All Zones - All AHS and APL Sites using the Abbott Panbio for COVID-19 Antigen Kits
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Point of Care Testing (POCT)
RE:	POCT Panbio for COVID-19 Antigen Kit Shelf Life Expiry Change to 24 Months

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective September 9, 2021, Health Canada has approved the Abbott Panbio for COVID-19 Antigen test kit expiry and shelf life to be extended. It now has a 24-month shelf life from the product manufactured date. This includes both Nasal and Nasopharyngeal test methods.

Why this is important

- The shelf life extension will lengthen the use of test kits from the current 12 months to 24 months.

Action Required

- Be aware of the shelf life change and label current kit boxes accordingly. Update future boxes if expiry is less than 24 months. Communicate the change to your clinical practice area. There are no additional changes to the testing procedure.
- Future test kits will have the 24-month date reflected.

Effective

- September 9, 2021

Inquiries and feedback

- APL Laboratories please contact:
 - Dr. William Stokes, Medical Microbiologist, APL, William.Stokes@aplabs.ca
 - Dr. Byron Berenger, Medical Microbiologist, APL, Byron.Berenger@aplabs.ca

AHS POCT Sites please contact:

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Approved by

- Allison Venner, PhD, FCACB, Provincial POCT Medical Lead, APL