

DATE:	2022 April 4
TO:	Calgary and South Zone Physicians and Nursing Units
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Microbiology South Sector and Public Health Laboratory
RE:	Update – Resumption of Routine Rotavirus Antigen Testing

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Key Message

- **Effective immediately**, rotavirus antigen testing in Calgary and southern Alberta will again be available. The reagent shortage previously communicated on March 23, 2022 has resolved.

Why This Is Important

- Specimens submitted for rotavirus antigen testing will be tested at APL-Calgary Microbiology and no longer forwarded to Public Health laboratory.

Action Required

- Order rotavirus antigen test if required for patient management.

Background

- In most healthy children and adults, rotavirus causes a self-limiting diarrheal illness.
- Management is supportive, as there is no targeted therapy available.
- The rate of rotavirus disease has decreased since inclusion of the rotavirus vaccine into the routine childhood immunization schedule Alberta in 2015.
- Testing for viral pathogens in stool may be helpful in severe cases requiring hospitalization and investigation of outbreaks. In these situations, ordering the gastroenteritis viral panel, which tests for multiple viruses, is recommended. Refer to the APL test directory for more information [[Gastroenteritis - Viral - Public Health \(ProvLab\)](#)].

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

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