

DATE:	2021 November 29
TO:	All Health Care Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
RE:	UPDATED: Serology Testing for COVID-19

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Key Message

- Serology for COVID-19 has been available since July 2, 2020, for specific clinical indications and research studies.
- Currently, there are no recommendations to support pre- or post-vaccination testing for any clinical reasons.
- Serology should **NOT** be used for diagnosis of acute COVID-19 infection. Molecular (PCR) or rapid antigen testing is widely available for this purpose.
- Serology testing may be used to determine eligibility for some COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments (casirivimab/imdevimab).

Clinical indications for serology

- Aside from serology testing pre-casirivimab/imdevimab, **all serology requests must be approved by the Virologist-on-call (VOC) at the Public Health Laboratory.**
- Please consult the VOC **PRIOR** to ordering serology on your patient to ensure they do not undergo inadvertent phlebotomy in case the testing indication is not approved.
- There are very few situations when COVID-19 serology may help with patient management. Examples include:
 - Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C or MIS-A)
 - Pernio-like acral lesions of chilblains (COVID-toes)
 - Vasculitis in young children
 - Unusual neurologic or thromboembolic events
 - Testing to evaluate eligibility for receipt of casirivimab/imdevimab in hospitalized patients with a recent SARS-CoV-2 diagnosis. See pharmacy eligibility criteria for this agent.
- Testing for COVID-19 pre- or post-vaccination is not indicated at present, given the absence of data to support interpretation of specific antibody levels as correlates of protection.
- Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 serology can be found here: [COVID-19 S-FAQ](#)
- A news release from Alberta Health about other serology studies can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 serology interpretation

- For assistance with interpretation of COVID-19 results, please consult with the VOC at the Public Health Laboratory (Edmonton or Calgary).

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Jamil Kanji, Medical Microbiologist, Interim APL Public Health Laboratory programme leader for COVID-19 serology, jamil.kanji@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical-Scientific Director, Public Health Laboratory, APL