
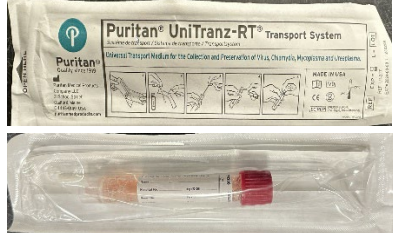


<b>DATE:</b>	5 February 2024
<b>TO:</b>	All Healthcare Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Viral Transport Medium Change</b>

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

### Key Message

- On December 8, the brand of universal transport medium (UTM)/ viral transport medium (VTM) distributed in Alberta changed.
- Puritan UniTranz-RT UTM replaced the current Yocon VTM.
- Do not use Yocon VTM after the expiry date as indicated on the product.

	Product name	Product number	Oracle number	Unit of measure	Product appearance
<b>Current product</b>	KIT VIRAL SAMPLING NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB YOCON	STC-110	367021	Box of 20	
<b>New product</b>	SWAB NASOPHARYNGEAL FLOCKED IN VIAL W/3ML UNIVERSAL TRANSPORT MEDIA	UT-317	398170	Each	

### Background

- The Puritan UniTranz-RT UTM demonstrated a favourable performance in an evaluation by the Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) and is suitable as the replacement for the soon to be expired Yocon VTM.
- UTM/VTM is used when collecting swabs for virus and syphilis nucleic acid testing (NAT/PCR). This includes respiratory viruses (such as SARS-CoV-2, influenza, RSV), mumps, measles, and viruses causing skin and mucosal lesions or eye infections (such as HSV, VZV, Mpox, and enterovirus).
- The Puritan UniTranz-RT UTM will also replace the Yocon VTM in lesion collection kits.
  - This bulletin supersedes the following bulletins:
    - December 11, 2023 bulletin indicating the wrong expiry date for all Yocon VTM in the province. There is Yocon VTM distributed with a variety of expiry dates.
    - Bulletins in 2021 saying there was an extension in the Yocon expiry date. The expiry date on the product should be followed.



### Action Required

- At expiry, dispose of Yocon VTM kits using regular discard processes at your site.
- For the testing of respiratory viruses, mumps and measles, order the Puritan UniTranz-RT UTM kit as indicated in the table above.
- For testing of lesions or eyes, order collection kits through your routine process (“Kit HSV (UTM)”, Oracle number 398689 and DynaLIFE order number 1S0079).
  - Continue to use the designated collection kits for other pathogens:
    - eSwab for bacterial culture.
    - APTIMA for *Chlamydia trachomatis/Neisseria gonorrhoea* screening.
    - eSwab or APTIMA for bacterial vaginosis, yeast, and *Trichomonas vaginalis* depending on your location.
    - Regan-Lowe (black gel) for *Bordetella pertussis*.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Nathan Zelyas, Medical Microbiologist, Public Health Laboratory, APL ([nathan.zelyas@aplabs.ca](mailto:nathan.zelyas@aplabs.ca))
- Dr. Byron Berenger, Medical Microbiologist, Public Health Laboratory, APL ([byron.berenger@aplabs.ca](mailto:byron.berenger@aplabs.ca))
- Maria Falsetti, Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health, APL ([Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca](mailto:Maria.Falsetti@aplabs.ca))

### Approved by

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

*Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.*