

**Date:** March 25, 2019  
**To:** Healthcare providers in Central, Edmonton, and North Zones where testing is performed by DynaLIFE Medical Labs  
**From:** Alberta Public Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE Medical Labs  
**Re:** Change in testing for enteric pathogens at DynaLIFE Medical Labs

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**Key Message:**

DynaLIFE Medical Labs will begin using nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) to routinely screen for *Campylobacter jejuni*, *Campylobacter coli*, *Shigella* spp., *Salmonella* spp., Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), *Giardia lamblia*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, and *Cryptosporidium hominis* in submitted diarrheal stool specimens effective April 1, 2019.

Where additional testing is clinically indicated (i.e. *Vibrio* spp., *Aeromonas* spp., *Yersinia* spp., *Plesiomonas shigelloides* and/or other enteric parasites not aforementioned), please complete and submit the required [Enteric Pathogen Patient History Form](#) along with the stool specimen.

NAAT allows NEGATIVE results for bacterial and parasite pathogens to be reported more rapidly. Positive bacterial and parasite NAAT results will be confirmed by culture and microscopy, respectively, in the initial post-implementation period.

**Action Required:**

If **bacterial** testing is indicated, stool specimens should be submitted in:

- a sterile container without preservative (Enteric Transport Media will not be accepted).

If **parasite** testing is indicated, stool specimens should be submitted in:

- a sterile container without preservative and
- a container containing SAF.

For collection information and electronic version of the [Enteric Pathogen Patient History Form](#), please refer to the *DynaLIFE* Test Directory at [www.dynalife.ca](http://www.dynalife.ca).

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

Dr. Bob Verity, *DynaLIFE* Interim Microbiology Director, at Tel: (780)451-3702 ext. 8157 or the *DynaLIFE* Microbiologist On-Call at Tel: (780)-451-3702

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs  
Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)