



**Date:** September 18, 2020  
**To:** All Physicians and Healthcare Providers  
**From:** Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories  
**Re:** Discontinue using COPAN ESwab™ Collection Kits/Swabs for COVID-19 Testing Immediately

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message:

**DO NOT USE COPAN ESwab™ for COVID-19 testing.**

- Use nasopharyngeal or throat swabs recommended and distributed by APL/DL/AHS specifically for COVID-19 testing.
- Copan ESwab™ specimen collection kits are the only collection kits for bacterial culture that are required for use on some automated microbiology platforms used in the province. These swabs are in **limited supply** due to global demand.

### Why this is important:

- Due to supply chain problems associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, supplies of ESwab™ are limited.
- Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, APL recommended ESwab™ swabs for COVID-19 testing because availability of other types of collection kits were limited. Other collection kits containing nasopharyngeal or throat swabs are now available for COVID-19 testing. **To ensure adequate supply of ESwab™ for routine microbiology testing, ESwab™ collection kits should not be used for COVID-19 testing.**

### Action Required:

1. **For COVID-19 testing, use swabs OTHER than the ESwab™.**
2. **Closely monitor distribution of ESwab™ swabs and order only what is required for a one month supply.**
3. To order COVID-19 testing swabs and for further information on COVID-19 swabs refer to the AHS Laboratory Bulletin "COVID-19 Collection Kit Guidance"  
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-bulletin-covid-19-collection-kit-guidance.pdf>

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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

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