



Date: June 29, 2020
To: All Health Care Sites and Providers
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
Re: Expansion of Acceptable Swab and Transport Media Types for HSV/VZV and Syphilis PCR

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key message:

- Provlab has validated a number of swabs and transportation media for Herpes Simplex virus / Varicella zoster virus (HSV/VZV) PCR assay and syphilis PCR assay.
- Acceptable collection kits include:
 - UTM
 - E-swab/Mini e-swab
 - Saline swab kit
 - Aptima collection kit

Background:

- Provlab has validated several alternative swabs and transportation media to accommodate the shortage of lesion swabs and transportation media during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Use of collection kits other than those mentioned above may compromise the sensitivity of the assay.

Action Required:

- Please collect swabs for HSV/VZV or syphilis PCR with one of the approved collection kits.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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