

---

**Date:** May 6, 2019  
**To:** All Physicians, Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and Hepatitis Clinics  
**From:** Alberta Public Laboratories and DynaLife  
**Re:** Hepatitis A Serology Follow-up

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Messages:**

- Increased numbers of indeterminate and positive Hepatitis A IgM results have been reported due to an issue with the manufacturer's kits.
- Many of these tests will be false-positives, and should be interpreted in the clinical context.
- If a result is inconsistent with the clinical picture, HAV molecular testing can be used to verify true clinical cases (TAT for HAV PCR is 19 days).

**Background:**

- Alberta Public Health Laboratories have jointly identified a problem with current reagents leading to higher numbers of indeterminate and low-level positive Hepatitis A IgM results.
  - HAV IgM negatives and HAV IgG results are NOT affected
- The laboratory is working with the manufacturer to resolve the problem, however, a solution is likely months away.
- Vaccination, recent travel, and exposure to a confirmed case in conjunction with biochemical markers should be considered before ordering HAV molecular testing.

**Actions Required:**

- When clinically indicated, HAV molecular testing (HAV PCR) can be requested through the Microbiologist/Virologist on call at ProvLab (Edmonton 780-407-8822 or in Calgary, through ROCA or 403-944-1200).
- Detailed information about these tests can be found on the ProvLab guide to services website (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/webapps/labservices/indexProvLab.asp>).

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

- Dr. Carmen Charlton, Clinical Microbiologist ProvLab; (780) 407-8975; [Carmen.Charlton@albertapubliclabs.ca](mailto:Carmen.Charlton@albertapubliclabs.ca)
- Dr. Errol Prasad, Clinical Microbiologist, DynaLife; [Errol.Prasad@dynalife.ca](mailto:Errol.Prasad@dynalife.ca)
- Dr. Alex Chin, Clinical Chemist, Calgary & South Zone; [alex.chin@albertapubliclabs.ca](mailto:alex.chin@albertapubliclabs.ca)
- Dr. Kevin Fonseca, Clinical Virologist, ProvLab (403 944-1263) [Kevin.Fonseca@albertapubliclabs.ca](mailto:Kevin.Fonseca@albertapubliclabs.ca)

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

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