



Date: June 29, 2020
To: All Community Physicians, Alberta Health, Laboratory Directors and Managers, Medical Officers of Health, Pediatric and Adult Infectious Disease Physicians and FNIHB
From: Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab), Alberta Precision Laboratories
Re: Lyme Disease Serology – Change From C6 to VlsE1/pepC10 Serology Assay

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- A VlsE1/pepC10 enzyme immunoassay (EIA) serology test has replaced the C6 EIA for Lyme disease (LD) serology, as this assay is no longer available
- This VlsE1/pepC10 EIA assay has similar performance characteristics to the previous C6 assay
- On the laboratory report the test descriptor will change from “Lyme Disease C6 EIA to Lyme Disease C10 EIA”, the reported test results will be unchanged
- Requests for testing as always, MUST include clinical history, travel (if applicable), history of tick bites, dates of onset or duration of symptoms/manifestations. **Requests lacking this information may be CANCELLED.**
- There is no change in the testing algorithm; samples that test positive or indeterminate will be sent to the National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg, for confirmatory immunoblot testing

Action Required:

- Requests for LD testing MUST include clinical history, travel (if applicable), dates of onset or duration of symptoms/manifestations:
 - when ordering in SCM or Connect Care ensure this information is accurately entered OR
 - use the Zoonotic Testing requisition available at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-20087.pdf>
- **IMPORTANCE OF TRAVEL HISTORY:**
 - Travel history given on the requisition determines if confirmatory testing for European LD genospecies, (*B.afzellei* & *B.garinii*), is lab-ordered.
 - If travel is within Canada and the USA or none is provided, confirmatory testing only for North American LD (*B.burgdorferi*) will be performed.
- If questions/concerns, consult with the Microbiologist/Virologist-on-call at your Public Health Laboratory site (Calgary: 403-333-4942; Edmonton: 780-407-8822).

Additional information: on LD testing is available at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/plab/wf-provlab-appendix-laboratory-testing-of-lyme-disease-in-alberta.pdf>

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical/Scientific Director, ProvLab, Alberta Precision Laboratories