

Date: September 5, 2013

To: Clients of the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: Update to ProvLab Guide to Services

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

The Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab) is pleased to announce that an updated version of the Guide to Services (Version 6.0) is now available on the following websites:

- ProvLab website at: <http://www.provlab.ab.ca/guide-to-services.pdf> and
- AHS Laboratory Services website at: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/3217.asp>.

Why this is important:

- The Guide to Services contains information on appropriate sample handling, use of collection devices, and transport requirements.
- It is applicable for specimens tested to support acute care microbiology at the University of Alberta Hospital, specialized and reference testing services, outbreak investigation, and public health programs throughout the province.
- Every effort has been made to provide an all-inclusive list of disease processes and associated specimen collection guidelines so that laboratory investigations are complete and timely for optimal patient care and public health action.
- Hyperlinks are present in the document's Table of Contents and other sections to facilitate information searches and enhance utility.
- The Guide to Services is a controlled document and will be updated on a regular basis to ensure access to current testing information and collection requirements.

Action Required:

- Uncontrolled print copies are valid only for 5 days from print date. Please destroy all former versions of this document and reference the current version.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Webmaster at: WebmasterProvLab@albertahealthservices.ca or by phone at: 780-407-3303.

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, ProvLab