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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HEALTH PEI STAFF AND PHYSICIANS
FROM: Dr. Kristen Mead, Medical Director, Laboratory Services; Dr. Michael Gardam, CEO
CC: Dr. Heather Morrison, Chief Public Health Officer; Mark Spidel, Deputy Minister, Health and Wellness
DATE: December 24, 2021
SUBJECT: INTERIM MEASURES TO PRESERVE LAB TESTING CAPACITY Version 1

In order to preserve the limited capacity for lab-based PCR testing, until further notice, PCR testing will be limited to tests identified below. These measures will be in effect until at least January 3, 2022. The Laboratory will continue to reassess their capacity and provide a further update as necessary.

Please note it is not logistically possible to offer PCR at all sites. ID Now tests provided at rural sites provide a faster result. Inpatients and those being transferred to mental health/addictions or LTC who test positive on ID Now at any site will receive a PCR test to confirm.

PATIENT PCR Testing will be performed on the following groups:

- **Emergency Department patients that are being admitted to hospital and have symptoms of covid-19 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Prince County Hospital.** Patients being admitted at Western Hospital and Kings County Memorial Hospital will be tested with ID Now and will only be tested with PCR if they are positive on the ID Now instrument.
- **Inpatients that develop symptoms of Covid-19 while in hospital at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Prince County Hospital.** ID Now is acceptable at Western Hospital, Community Hospital, Souris Hospital and Kings County Memorial Hospital. For inpatients that are positive on the ID Now instrument, a PCR can be performed.
- Surgical, and labour and delivery patients that test positive with the ID Now instrument at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (PCR can be used at Prince County Hospital until December 30th when an ID Now instrument will become operational).
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Prince County Hospital inpatients that are being transferred to long term care. ID Now is acceptable at Western Hospital, Community Hospital, Souris Hospital and Kings County Memorial Hospital. If the ID Now test is positive, a PCR test can be performed.
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Prince County Hospital inpatients that are being transferred to mental health and addictions facilities. ID Now is acceptable at Western Hospital, Community Hospital, Souris Hospital and Kings County Memorial Hospital. If the ID Now test is positive, a PCR test can be performed.

ANYONE ELSE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PCR TESTING WILL BE PROVIDED ID NOW TESTS OR ANTIGEN TESTING AS DIRECTED AT TESTING SITES BASED ON SYMPTOMS or EXPOSURES.