

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

CORRECTION to Memorandum dated June 2, 2020, Regarding Updated Testing, Stat Testing & Sample Collection Guidance for COVID-19

June 3, 2020

This information applies to: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Administrators

The following provides **CURRENT AND NEW CRITERIA (in bold)** for testing for COVID-19:

Emergency Department

Any person presenting with new onset of fever without an alternative explanation or new or worsening cough, sore throat, rhinitis, marked fatigue, shortness of breath, chills, headache, myalgia, or acute loss of sense of smell or taste without an alternative explanation should be tested.

Community Clinics

Any person presenting with new onset of fever without an alternative explanation or new or worsening cough, sore throat, rhinitis, marked fatigue, shortness of breath, chills, headache, myalgia, or acute loss of sense of smell or taste without an alternative explanation should be tested.

Any person who was in close contact with (1) a symptomatic case starting 48 hours prior to the case developing symptoms or (2) a laboratory confirmed asymptomatic case starting 48 hours prior to the day their positive specimen was collected, should be tested 7 days after their last exposure to the case.

Cough and fever clinics are available to provide assessment, alternative explanation for symptoms and symptom management. All clients of the cough and fever clinic as well as swabbing clinics are being tested.

Testing and assessment clinics are available in Charlottetown and Summerside. These can be accessed through 811 or referred by a health care provider (email: Coughandfeverclinic@gov.pe.ca).

Admitted patients

Any person hospitalized > 48hrs with influenza-like-illness (ILI; fever without an alternate explanation and new or worsening cough, sore throat, joint pain, muscle aches, fatigue)

Any person admitted to the ICU with a respiratory symptom (if there is a strong non-viral alternative diagnosis contact the medical microbiologist).

Inpatients at Hillsborough Hospital, Provincial Addiction Treatment Facility, and Prince County Hospital Inpatient Psychiatry Unit should be tested on admission (**routine test unless symptomatic; if symptomatic for COVID-19, Stat test**).

Health Care Providers (HCP)

Any current health care worker with a new cough and/or fever, sore throat, rhinitis, marked fatigue, shortness of breath, chills, headache, myalgia, or acute loss of sense of smell or taste without an alternative explanation should be tested.

Locums and other HCPs arriving from out of province must be tested prior to working; may qualify for Stat testing (As directed by CPHO)

Weekly testing of LTC staff (public and private) who work in more than one healthcare site

Weekly testing of Microbiology staff at the QEH

Health Care Workers can be assessed for testing by calling: 1-855-354-4358.

Long-term Care/Community Care/Palliative Care Facilities – Residents

Test residents of LTC, CCF or palliative care facility on admission to the facility (if had not already tested in past 48 hours); if negative on initial test, test again at 7 days.

In province transfers: test residents of LTC, CCF or palliative care facility 24-48 before transfer/admission to the LTC or CCF facility; if negative on first test, repeat testing at the LTC or CCF in 7 days from the initial test.

Patients and residents with dementia who are being admitted or readmitted to a LTC facility may be tested an additional time (i.e., on admission, at 3 or 4 days, and at 7 days).

Inter-Facility Transfers

Asymptomatic transfers to other facilities (excluding LTC and CCF, e.g. QEH to KCMH) do not require testing at this time, as there is no documented community transmission or reservoir in PEI hospitals.

The IWK has requested that patients requiring certain surgeries or procedures (ENT, Dental, Cardiac, etc.) be tested prior to leaving PEI.

With the exception of the IWK, in consultation with OOP facilities transfers to New Brunswick or Nova Scotia do not require COVID testing.

Inpatients returning from OOP facilities require routine testing on arrival; if negative on initial test, test again at 7 days.

Correctional Facility Admissions

Test (routine testing) on admission to the facility (if had not already tested in past 48 hours); if negative on initial test, test again at 7 days.

Temporary Foreign Workers

Test temporary foreign workers between Day 10 and 12 of self-isolation.

Summer Residents

Test summer residents arriving from out of province between Day 10 and 12 of self-isolation

Essential Workers with Out-of-Province Travel

In addition to health care providers (listed above), essential workers with frequent travel (less than 14 days at home at a time) outside of PEI (e.g., long-haul truckers, construction workers) can be tested upon their arrival in PEI, but no more than weekly unless symptoms occur.

International Travelers

Test between Day 10 and 12 after arriving in PEI.

Screeners at Points of Entry

Weekly testing for personnel screening travelers at points of entry (bridge, airport, and ferry terminals).

Postmortem

Test upon autopsy

Testing Outside of Guidelines

Contact the CPHO on call for consideration of testing outside of guidelines for outpatients, including any patients under the care of an ER physician.

Contact the microbiologist on call for inpatients.

STAT TESTING

Routine testing for COVID-19 is offered multiple times per day with turnaround times between **6 and 24** hours upon receipt to the QEH Laboratory. The request for Stat testing must meet PEI guidance or be directed by the Chief Public Health Office or the Medical Microbiologist.

The following would be considered for Stat (vs routine) testing:

ER for admitted patients **at QEH, PCH, KCMH, Western Hospital** that meet routine criteria.

Patients admitted to the ICU or require critical care in the ED, all Code Blue cases.

Symptomatic admissions to Labor and Delivery

Symptomatic admissions to Hillsborough Hospital, Provincial Addiction Treatment Facility, and Prince County Hospital Inpatient Psychiatry Unit

Symptomatic resident of long-term care (LTC)

Symptomatic pediatric patients admitted to hospital

Offenders with symptoms transported by police officers

Requests approved by CPHO or the microbiologist on call (see Cases off Guidelines above)

All Stat microbiology requests require a phone call to the receiving laboratory. When ordering the test, information provided on the requisition will assist in clarifying if the test meets guidelines or has been previously approved. Microbiologist on call will review these documents and may contact the ordering provider or service as necessary.

Collection Technique: NP collection remains best suited for admitted patients, patients presenting to the ER, and those patients/residents unable collect a throat swab. Nasal and combined throat swabs are acceptable for community members. Nasal collection is best explained as:

Insert swab 1 to 1.5 cm into a nostril, rotate the swab against the inside of the nostril for 3 seconds while applying pressure with a finger to the outside of the nostril. Repeat in the other nostril.

Please note that the requisition form has been updated (attached).

For on Guidelines or CPHO/Microbiologist on call approved Stat testing call:

Time	QEH Microbiology Testing	PCH Main Lab
8 am – 4 pm	894-2312	438-4285
4pm – 11:30	2111 (ask for Microbiology tech)	438-4285
11:30 pm – 8 am	2111 (ask for Hematology tech)	438-4285

The Chief/Deputy Public Health Officers may be reached at 902-629-9624 on-call.

The Medical Microbiologist as noted above may be reached through locating or through 902-894-2515.

Thank you all for your cooperation and dedication to all Islanders in these challenging times.

Please let us know if you have any questions or clarifications.

By: Dr. Heather Morrison, CPHO
Dr. Greg German, Medical Microbiologist

COVID-19 VIRUS REQUEST FORM (2020)

Address for Non-PEI Residents Required

Provincial Microbiology Laboratory
 Queen Elizabeth Hospital
 Charlottetown, PEI
 Phone (902)894-2312 Fax (902)894-2120

Name: _____
 Street: **Place Label Here** _____
 City: _____ Prov./State: _____
 Postal Code/Zip: _____ Patient Phone # _____

Specimen Collected By: _____ Date: YYYY/MM/DD Time: HH:MM	Payment Responsibility <input type="checkbox"/> WCB <input type="checkbox"/> DVA <input type="checkbox"/> DND <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP <input type="checkbox"/> Self Pay Canadian <input type="checkbox"/> Self Pay Non-Canadian Provincial Medicare # exp. date: _____	DOB: YYYY-MM-DD	Sex	Medical Record Number (MRN)
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Ordering MD: CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER (CHO) Alternative ordering MD/NP: _____

Location: Summerside Charlottetown Borden Wood Islands Other Site: _____

NP swab
 Midturbinate
 Midturbinate/throat
 Nasal/throat swab

SYMPTOMATIC (mark below)
 NOT SYMPTOMATIC

<input type="checkbox"/> Long term care resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health and Addictions
<input type="checkbox"/> Community care resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Correctional facility admission
<input type="checkbox"/> Palliative care resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Facility:
<input type="checkbox"/> Group home resident	

<input type="checkbox"/> Health care provider (HCP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Foreign Workers
<input type="checkbox"/> Family member of health care provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Screeners at Point of Entry
<input type="checkbox"/> Essential Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Worker:
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Member of essential worker	

--> Role of HCP / Essential worker: _____ Location(s): _____

Traveled off island within the last 14 days
 Where: _____ When: _____

Close Contact
 Confirmed Case
 Person Under Investigation (swabbed, awaiting results)

Special request of the Chief Public Health Office or Staff
 Explain: _____

None of the Above

Symptoms (check off any applicable symptoms below):

<input type="checkbox"/> Fever * (38°C or higher in past 24 hrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Runny Nose	<input type="checkbox"/> Cough (past 2 days)
<input type="checkbox"/> Chills	<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Worsening Cough
<input type="checkbox"/> Sore Throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Marked Fatigue	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of Breath
<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of taste/Smell	<input type="checkbox"/> Muscle Aches	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other symptoms (list): _____		

* Fever in Seniors are broadly defined

Abnormal vitals (as applicable)
 Temp: _____ °C HR: _____ RR: _____ O₂ Sats: _____

Assessment Performed by (signature) : _____

Lab use only:
 Priority 1
 Priority 2
 Priority 3
 GE
 BD
 OTH
 SOLO