

# Provincial Laboratory Services



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**Health PEI**  
One Island Health System

## Interim Practice Changes in Microbiology in Response to COVID-19 Workload

December 20, 2021

***This information applies to:*** Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Administrators, Long Term Care

Due to the unprecedented demand of COVID-19 testing, we have to continue to respond to our testing challenges and make important changes.

Until further notice and potentially into 2022 the following tests will be curtailed upon receipt to the laboratory with a note referring to this communique.

- Sputum cultures will be limited to those collected by RT (induced sputums), or when there is specialist care actively involved
- Fungus cultures discontinued
- H. pylori testing - Weekly
- Giardia/Cryptosporidium testing - Tested every 2 weeks. Inpatients/ER samples will be run weekly via Quickcheck
- Measles, Mumps and Varicella serology – Tested every 2 weeks
- Enteric Viral panels discontinued – except ER, or facility residents or inpatients
- Herpes PCR – Tested every 2 weeks unless CSF request

Exceptions can be on a case by case basis or could include adding other target groups or ordering providers.

### ***For more information, contact:***

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