

Provincial Laboratory Services



healthpei.ca/src/lab

Health PEI
One Island Health System

Monospot Testing

June 10, 2021

This information applies to: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Directors of Nursing, Nurse Managers, Clinical Instructors/Educators, LTC, Lab Managers

Please be advised that effective July 5, 2021, the Monospot test will be replaced with testing for Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) serology.

The Monospot test is not recommended for general use. Contrary to the name, the test does not detect Epstein-Barr specific antibodies. The test actually detects a non-specific heterophile antibody. Such a test provides misleading information owing to the production of both false positive/negative results with no real confirmation of EBV infection.

All further requests for such testing must be made using the EBV Screen order found on the Microbiology requisition. All EBV testing will be performed by the Microbiology Laboratory at the QEH site. Such requests will be done routinely as this is not considered a "stat" test.

For more information, contact:

*Dr. Kristen Mead, MD
Medical Director
Provincial Laboratory Services
Health PEI
902-894-2316*

*Brian Timmons BSC, MLT
Director
Provincial Laboratory Services
Health PEI
902-894-2964*

CC: Dr. Michael Gardam
Corinne Rowsell