

# Provincial Laboratory Services



[src.healthpei.ca/microbiology](https://src.healthpei.ca/microbiology)

**Health PEI**  
One Island Health System

## Rapid IDNow COVID Nucleic Acid Testing at Western and KCMH

March 10, 2021

*This information applies to: Paul Young, Edna Miller, Terry Campbell, QEH ED - Dr. Aaron Sibley, Mike MacDonald;  
PCH - Dr. Steven MacNeill, Marla Simmons*

Since January, rapid IDNow testing in the WH and KCMH hospitals has proven to be a useful tool for the screening of COVID-19.

As of March 10<sup>th</sup>, duplicate swabbing will no longer be required when using this device as the methodology is now able to provide:

- 1) Final reporting of negative COVID-19 samples.
- 2) Any positive sample will be reported as presumptive positive and the test **must be confirmed** with a new NP swab in viral media and sent to the laboratory for confirmatory PCR testing as soon as possible. For these repeat tests, providers are to ensure that body site # "Confirmatory testing of rapid test" is selected when placing the order. All patients with a presumptive positive result **must be treated as "COVID Positive"** until confirmation by PCR is received.

Hospitals receiving patient transfers from WH and KCMH can accept the "negative" IDNow results for COVID screening.

WH and KCMH facilities can expand their testing capabilities in-house which meet the criteria defined in the Public Health/Laboratory testing memo which can be located:

Provincial Laboratory Services website - <https://src.healthpei.ca/microbiology>

Spectrum App - <https://spectrum.app/health-pei>

This test does not replace the testing clinics available across the Island. There is limited supply of these testing kits and the laboratory continues to advocate for using our supplies appropriately. As a guide, testing may include but not be limited to:

- New symptomatic admissions
- Symptomatic ER patients without alternate diagnosis
- New transfers of symptomatic patients
- Service contractors coming from off-Island
- Locum physicians and nurses that require testing before starting duties
- Long term care / Community care residents who are symptomatic
- Staff members who are symptomatic and require immediate testing – Please note this is for situations where staffing will affect immediate service delivery

New, admitted patients with "new cough/headache" with no travel or exposure history and not thought to be COVID can be removed from precautions with a presumptive negative ID Now test.

Cc: Dr. Michael Gardam, Corinne Rowsell, JRT, Tara Ferguson, CPHO

*For more information or questions, contact:*

*Brian Timmons*  
Director  
902-894-2964  
[bdtimmons@ihis.org](mailto:bdtimmons@ihis.org)

*Dr. Kristen Mead*  
Medical Director  
(902) 894-2316  
[kamead@ihis.org](mailto:kamead@ihis.org)

*Mary Jean O'Brien*  
Manager Diag Services West  
902-853-3205  
[mjobrien@ihis.org](mailto:mjobrien@ihis.org)

*Krista MacKinnon*  
Manager Diag Services East  
902-838-0753  
[krdmackinnon@ihis.org](mailto:krdmackinnon@ihis.org)