

Provincial Laboratory Services



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One Island Health System

Recent Microbiology Updates

December 1, 2021

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

Please note the following recent updates for the Microbiology laboratories at Prince County and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals:

- Availability of susceptibility testing for anaerobic organisms is now limited.** In cases where the name of an anaerobic organism is reported, a β -lactamase result will be provided along with a comment indicating possible treatment options. The antibiogram is also a useful resource (see <https://src.healthpei.ca/microbiology>). **β -lactamase testing will not be performed or reported when “Mixed Anaerobes” are present.**
- Gram stains are no longer offered on urine cultures.** If knowing the presence of bacteria and urine leukocytes is required prior to receiving culture results, please order a routine urinalysis. A reflex urinalysis may also be ordered by the Microbiology laboratory if required for culture workup.
- A reminder that ticks must be submitted directly to eTick.ca for identification; patients are welcome to perform this task themselves via the eTick website or application. **As of January 1, 2022, laboratories will no longer accept ticks. Any tick received will be discarded;** however, eTick.ca will occasionally direct a patient to submit a tick to their local laboratory for further analysis. In these cases, an eTick.ca identification number (which must be submitted to the laboratory along with the tick) will be provided to the patient by eTick.ca. Results of any further testing will be for epidemiological purposes only and will not be forwarded to the patient.

For more information, contact:

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