ALBERTA PRECISION LABORATORIES
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Laboratory Bulletin

DATE:	9 November 2026
TO:	All Physicians and Clinicians
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab)
RE:	**COVID-19 Serology Transition to a Send Out Test**

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Key Message

- **In province testing discontinued:** As of November 11, 2026, COVID-19 serology testing will no longer be performed locally and instead transition to an external laboratory.
- **Increased turnaround time:** The expected turnaround time will increase from the current 7 days to at least 14 days.
- **Restricted indications:** COVID-19 serology remains restricted to a limited scope of indications, as outlined in the APL Test Directory.

Background

- The Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) at Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) currently offers COVID-19 serology testing within a limited scope of indications.

Upcoming change

- Due to operational reasons, **effective November 11, 2026,** COVID-19 serology will transition to an external laboratory. APL ProvLab anticipates maintaining a dual-target serology panel for both anti-nucleoside protein (anti-N) IgG and anti-spike (anti-S) IgG.

Clinical workflow and implications:

- **Turnaround time:** Will increase from the current 7 days to up to 14 days.
- **Connect Care ordering and reporting: At this time,** test requests can continue as current. Results for COVID-19 serology testing will be reported using a **Miscellaneous External Send-out** orderable.
- **Finding results:** Clinicians will need to manually search for the result in Connect Care as it may not automatically populate under a 'COVID-19 serology heading' until the new orderable is live.

Approval requirements and indications:

- **Approval required:** All COVID-19 serology results must be approved by the ProvLab Microbiologist-On-Call (MOC).
- **Prior consultation:** Clinicians are strongly recommended to consult the ProvLab MOC **prior to ordering** to ensure testing is approved and patients do not undergo unnecessary patient phlebotomy.
- Third-party COVID-19 serology testing is not available through APL ProvLab.
- *Limited indications for COVID-19 serology testing (test requests outside these scopes are unlikely to be approved):*

- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-A or MIS-C)
- Pernio-like acral lesions or chilblains (COVID-19 toes)
- Vasculitis in young children
- Unusual or neurologic/thromboembolic events suspected to be linked to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Inappropriate indications for COVID-19 serology (do NOT order; likely to be canceled):

- Diagnosis of acute or suspected SARS-CoV-2 infection;
- Determining the need for SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 vaccination – guidance on this is provided by local health authorities;
- Assessing seroconversion to COVID-19 vaccines. Testing COVID-19 serology pre- or post- COVID-19 vaccinations is not recommended by the National Advisory Group on Immunization (see COVID-19 vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide).

Frequently asked questions about COVID-19 serology can be found here: COVID-19 S-FAQ.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Jamil Kanji, APL Public Health Laboratory Program Lead for COVID-19 Serology Testing.

Approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical and Scientific Director, APL Public Health Laboratory