



# Newfoundland & Labrador

## PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Physicians, Nurses and Health Care employees

**RE:** Notification in change of swab product for bacterial culture

**FROM:** NL Provincial Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory

**DATE:** February 27, 2019

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Dear Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Colleagues,

With a view to improving quality in the detection and identification of bacteria from swab specimens, the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory (NL PHML) is transitioning to exclusively processing the ESwab (photo attached, liquid transport medium). Eswab has demonstrated superior performance.

While most health care providers in the province use ESwab, some sites continue ordering and stocking M40 swabs (photo attached, gel transport medium).

**Kindly remove M40 swabs from your inventory effective immediately.**

**NL PHML and all other regional microbiology laboratories will STOP processing M40 swabs effective May 1, 2019. M40 swabs received after April 30, 2019 will be REJECTED.**

Please note this change does NOT apply to the swab containers used for viral testing, which is universal transport media (UTM, pink liquid transport medium).

EH Health Sciences Centre stores will no longer provide M40 swabs and requests will be replaced by ESwab.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Office of the Director, Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory Services (709-777-7233).

February 27, 2019



## M40 Swab



## ESwab

