



Newfoundland & Labrador

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Dr. LA Miller Centre, 100 Forest Road, St. John's, NL A1A 3Z9

(709) 777-6583

www.publichealthlab.ca

FROM: NEWFOUNDLAND PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH and MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY

TO: ALL PHYSICIANS, LABORATORY AND FRONTLINE STAFF, AND RHA EXECUTIVE TEAMS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

RE: EXTENDED HOURS OF OPERATION

The Public Health and Microbiology Lab (PHML) at the Miller Centre is pleased to announce that as of Monday February 4, 2019 the bacteriology lab will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For clinician stakeholders, it is relevant to note that between 2400 and 0700 critical specimens (CSF, blood, and other specimens collected from sterile sites) will be processed as a priority.

For all RHA hospitals, clinics and lab sites, the PHML will have the capacity to receive specimens around the clock.

We would also like to remind you that the PHML molecular microbiology bench is operating 7 days a week for respiratory and gastrointestinal specimen testing.

At this time, specimen transport from within St. John's will remain status quo which includes dedicated scheduled runs from HSC lab office to the Miller Centre from 0700 to 2100 Monday to Friday, and from 0700 to 1900 on Saturday, Sunday and Stat Holidays. Outside these hours, only critical specimens will be sent to the lab office stat bench to be transported to the Miller Centre via a stat courier or taxi.

For questions about priority processing of specimens, the microbiologist on call is available for consultation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through hospital locating at (709) 777-6300.

George Zahariadis MD, FRCPC

PHML Director and Chief

Jessica Kafka, PhD

PHML Laboratory Operations Manager

