



Newfoundland & Labrador

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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FROM: NEWFOUNDLAND PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH and MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY

TO: EASTERN HEALTH OR AND ICU STAFF

RE: LEAKING MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMENS

This Public Health and Microbiology Lab (PHML) memorandum is to remind colleagues in operating rooms, procedure units, in patient wards and ICUs to please ensure that collected specimens, especially for precious samples, are placed in containers that are capped and well-sealed before shipment.

Tubing from respiratory aspirate specimens must be removed prior to shipment.

Microbiology laboratories continue to receive leaking specimens that can contaminate the specimen, reduce sample volume as well as compromise staff safety.

Leaking specimens will be rejected and reports will ask for a recollection.

If there are clinical circumstances that preclude recollection, a CSRS can be completed and ordering physicians can consult the microbiologist on call (MOC) through hospital switchboard at 709-777-6300 to discuss alternative options.

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