



# Newfoundland & Labrador

## PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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The Provincial Public Health Microbiology Laboratory has a prioritization strategy for COVID19 testing.

ICU patients, other inpatients, symptomatic healthcare workers, and vulnerable patients would be examples of patients from whom specimens would be processed on the next run.

Outpatients on the other hand would be processed within 24h upon receipt to the PHML.

Rationale of this prioritization strategy are outlined in the attached detailed document.

### **Testing Stream Framework:**

Specimens from ICU patients, in-patients, ERs, Long-Term Care facilities, healthcare workers and those from patients greater than 75 years of age will be tested for COVID along with the other respiratory pathogens.

Specimens from out-patients will be tested for COVID only.

Depending on lab work-flow pressures and timely test reporting priorities, **non-outpatient** specimens may get directed to COVID-19 only testing.

### **Specimen Identification:**

To optimize specimen stream workflow, ordering staff should identify specimens in Meditech or on the lab requisition as follows:

For in-patients use **IP**

For ER patients use **ER**

For Healthcare worker use **HCW**

For out-patients use **OP**

For LTC residents use **LTC**

Coloured specimen labels are NO longer used or necessary to process respiratory samples for COVID-19.

If your patient only got a COVID-19 test result and there are clinical reasons to have that individual's specimen tested for other respiratory pathogens, please send this request with accompanying clinical details to the microbiologist on call via [microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca](mailto:microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca)

