



Newfoundland & Labrador

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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

(709) 777-7233

www.publichealthlab.ca

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (NL)

FROM: PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY (PHML)

RE: COVID-19 SEROLOGY MEMORANDUM – March 11th, 2021

This communication is to notify all health care providers in NL that testing for COVID-19 virus antibodies (Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG Assay) is now available at the PHML. Results from the Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG assay should not be used as the sole basis for diagnosis and is **NOT** intended to be used to detect the presence of antibody post-vaccination.

Clinical scenarios of severe illness with negative or inconclusive COVID19 PCR tests, where serology results may be helpful for clinical management and/or public health action, will be considered following consultation and approval by the MOH, prior to specimen collection. Specimens submitted for testing without prior MOH approval will be rejected.

Test Methodology

COVID-19 serology test is a two-tiered algorithmic approach, i.e., testing first with the Abbott Anti-SARS-CoV-2 assay (Chemiluminescent microparticle immunoassay method, detecting antibody against the nucleocapsid proteins of SARS-CoV-2 virus) followed by the Euroimmun Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG Assay (Enzyme immunoassays method, detecting antibody against the S1 domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 virus). Please refer to <https://publichealthlab.ca/> for further details.

Testing Approval

Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG assay will only be performed on clinical cases requested through the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) on Call. Please contact MOH at 1-866-270-7437 for case review and approval.

Specimen Collection, Transportation and Storage:

Minimum of 1 mL of Serum is required. Serum can be stored at 2-8°C and shipped on ice pack if delivery is within 24h post-collection. Otherwise, freeze (-20°C or colder) and ship frozen on dry ice.

Concerns, questions, or feedback can be directed to the PHML Director's Office at: 709 777 7233 or by Emailing: melissa.skinner@easternhealth.ca

George Zahariadis MD, FRCPC - PHML Director and Chief

Lei Jiao, MD, PhD, FRCPC - PHML Medical Microbiologist

Hedy Dalton-Kenny, MLT, CLX, B. Tech, MHS - PHML Laboratory Operations Manager

