LABSTRACT – February 2020

New Test Requisition and Approval Process for COVID-19 Testing at Public Health Ontario

Audience
Healthcare providers, public health units

Overview
Effective February 10, 2020

- Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory has implemented a dedicated COVID-19 Test Requisition for testing for COVID-19

- Healthcare providers are not required to phone the PHO Laboratory prior to collecting samples. Information, advice and assistance for COVID-19 testing is available through the PHO Laboratory Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (toll-free), or by email at customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca

- Healthcare providers should continue to contact their infection prevention and control department where applicable for guidance prior to collecting samples and for patient management.

- The local public health unit must be contacted about individuals being tested for COVID-19.

Background information

PHO Laboratory has implemented a new test requisition for COVID-2019 testing. The requisition can be found at the end of this Labstract, and has been updated to capture additional information to help determine the patient’s potential case status as a “person under investigation” (PUI), and for specimen triage critical to public health response.

The new test requisition replaces the requirement to contact the laboratory to provide clinical information, making the process for test ordering easier for healthcare providers.

Healthcare providers must contact their public health unit and inform them about patients being tested for COVID-19.

Healthcare providers must complete all fields of the COVID-2019 Test Requisition and submit with labelled specimens to the laboratory. Specimen collection, testing, and reporting information is located on the COVID-2019 Test Information Sheet.
If you require expedited testing, please arrange for the specimens and requisition to be delivered to the laboratory’s shipping and receiving dock any time of the day or week. Directions to the dock located at 661 University Avenue, Toronto are found on the laboratory contact page on our website.

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve, please visit PHO’s COVID-2019 disease and conditions page, for further updates.

Healthcare providers should contact their infection prevention and control department, where applicable, for guidance prior to collecting samples and for patient management.

The local public health unit must be contacted about individuals being tested for COVID-19. For contact information of your local health unit, please see: phdapps.health.gov.on.ca/phulocator/.
For further information

- Contact the PHOL Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (toll-free), or by email at customerservicecentre@oahpp.ca

- For PHO Laboratory specimen collection information and previous Labstracts, refer to publichealthontario.ca/test directory

- The current version of the PHOL General Test Requisition and other forms are available at publichealthontario.ca/Requisitions

- To subscribe to future Labstracts, register on our website

- To register for Autofax and receive laboratory reports by fax directly from our laboratory information system as soon as they are released, contact the PHOL Customer Service Centre.