

PROVINCIAL LABORATORY SERVICES
COMMUNIQUÉ

<http://www.healthpei.ca/micro>

TO: Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Joint Response Team Leaders

FROM: Dr. Greg German Division Head of Microbiology Services
Brian Timmons, Director Provincial Laboratory Services

DATE: March 30, 2020

RE: On-Island Testing for COVID-19

COVID-19 Virus testing is currently provided at the National Microbiology Laboratory for which there are challenges in shipping over the weekend that has led to prolonged delay. Routine processing is typically done within 2-3 days of collection. Starting Thursday, April 2 we will have limited capacity to do rapid (within one hour) testing on the GeneXpert at the QEH. As the next few weeks proceed, the lab will increase local capacity with this and other platforms and explore expanding testing to PCH.

At this time, inpatient specimens, initial specimens from long-term care, Health Care workers servicing a critical function (See request form for more details), and those approved by the medical microbiologist/Chief Public Health Officer will be triaged to rapid testing as supplies are available.

As is a national standard, the initial results will be considered presumptive negatives or presumptive positives and then confirmed at the national microbiology laboratory.