

July 15th, 2020

20-39

To: Clinical Staff in Acute Care, Long Term Care Facilities, Community Collection Centres, Rural/Remote Clinics & Physicians in Kelowna, Vernon, Penticton, Oliver, Princeton, Revelstoke and Salmon Arm

From: Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director, Microbiology





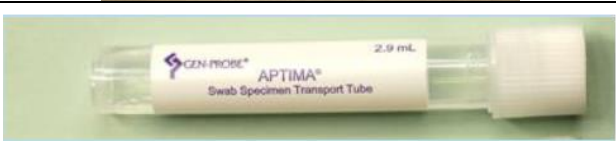
Re: Important Information Regarding COVID-19 Swabs

As of Thursday July 16th, testing for COVID-19 will resume at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) microbiology laboratory. KGH will perform testing on any of the 4 NP swabs listed below.

Note: Aptima swabs will continue to be sent to BCCDC for testing.

Swabs approved for use in Interior Health

There are currently several swabs approved for collecting NP swabs for COVID-19 testing.

<p>1. Starswab® Multitrans System <i>Note: Ensure proper swab is selected. The Starswab is very similar in appearance to the blue-top Copan swab used for oropharyngeal collection.</i></p>	
<p>2. Yocon</p>	
<p>3. BD Universal Viral Transport Medium (3.0mL tube)</p>	
<p>4. Copan Red Top 2ml Swab</p>	
<p>Aptima Unisex swabs: The Aptima Unisex swab is larger and therefore not optimal. It will be phased out as replacement inventory becomes available. <i>Note: These swabs will be tested at BCCDC.</i></p>	

****Reminder: Patients are to blow their nose just prior to collection for better sample quality. Please ensure the lid is replaced securely, as leaking containers cannot be tested. ****

Action Required

- Community screening locations requesting COVID collection swabs are to email their location and number of swabs required to SwabsCOVID@interiorhealth.ca
 - All requests require approval prior to distribution
- IH is unable to supply physician offices with COVID collection swabs
 - Physicians (office) are to refer patients to the nearest screening centre
- Return unused Aptima swabs to the laboratory and replacements will be issued
- Forward all collected swabs to your local IH laboratory