

Key Updates for COVID-19 Testing at PHO Laboratory – April 14, 2020

Dear Healthcare Providers,

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has updated the [COVID-19 Test Requisition](#) to meet your current needs. The new requisition facilitates efficient distributed testing and test prioritization, so you can receive reports in a timely manner.

Below is a summary of the changes that were made.

- Section 1 – Submitter section was revised to assist distributed labs with returning results to the correct health care provider.
- Section 5 – Check ‘Respiratory viruses’ only if required **and** only if the patient is in a group setting or hospitalized. For outbreaks: Testing for respiratory viruses will be performed on the first four specimens requested. Contact PHO Laboratory to discuss further testing.
- Section 7 – Added more patient setting/type options, including
 - Confirmation: To be checked ONLY by licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories to confirm results obtained from their test systems
 - Clearance: To document viral clearance when indicated (e.g., healthcare workers, hospitalized patients)
 - ER: To be hospitalized
- Section 8 – Clinical Information:
 - Added ‘Pregnancy’

What you have to do

- Please use this updated COVID-19 Test Requisition for all test submissions. **Discard all previous versions.**
- Complete all applicable areas for submitter information in Section 1.
- Enter your test results in Section 7 in the area beside the ‘Confirmatory’ checkbox if you are a licensed COVID-19 testing laboratory and are submitting specimens that you have tested and want PHO Laboratory to confirm. DO NOT check this box if you are NOT submitting specimen(s) to confirm test results.

If you have any questions regarding the updated COVID-19 Test Requisition, please contact CustomerServiceCentre@oahpp.ca or 1-877-604-4567.

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