

Health Care Providers Newsletter *August 2023*

New Testing Panel for Gastrointestinal Pathogens in British Columbia

Dr. Miguel Imperial, Medical Microbiologist, MD, FRCPC

Effective **September 18, 2023**, LifeLabs BC is launching a single, panel-based test, Infectious Diarrhea Panel (IDP) that merges gastrointestinal testing for viral, bacterial, and parasitic pathogens.

The IDP has a broader detection of GI pathogens and increased sensitivity in detecting some organisms. Using one Copan fecal swab, it can detect a standardized set of viral, bacterial, and protozoan pathogens as follows:



- Viruses: Rotavirus A, Norovirus GI/GII, Adenovirus 40/41, Astrovirus
- Bacteria: Salmonella species, Shigella species, Enteroinvasive E. coli (EIEC), Yersinia enterocolitica and
 pseudotuberculosis, Campylobacter jejuni and coli, Vibrio species (including toxigenic Vibrio cholerae), Shiga
 toxin producing E. coli (STEC), C. difficile. (Note stand-alone C. difficile testing is still available independent
 of the IDP)
- Parasites: Entamoeba histolytica, Cryptosporidium parvum and hominis, Giardia species, Cyclospora cavetanensis

What This Change Means

This new method of testing will be simpler for healthcare providers and patients as it only requires a single swab whereas the current process requires multiple stool collection containers (see the following page for additional details). Furthermore, this new testing method will report the results of additional pathogens, providing more information to enhance healthcare decision-making.

Note: The IDP does not detect worms (helminths). Worm infection does not generally cause diarrhea. If you suspect a worm infection, please order "Stool Microscopy" by writing this in the "Other Tests" section of the outpatient lab requisition.

For complete details and guidelines on using the IDP, please click here: <u>Infectious Diarrhea Panel – LifeLabs</u>







New Testing Panel for Gastrointestinal Pathogens in British Columbia... continued Dr. Miguel Imperial, Medical Microbiologist, MD, FRCPC

Collection Containers

The switch to the IDP for detection of gastrointestinal pathogens comes with a simplification of collection containers, summarized in the chart below. Patient Service Centres will provide information to patients about the container change in the weeks leading up to the IDP implementation.

	C. difficile stand-alone	Bacterial culture	Ova/parasite testing	Viral testing
				viral testing
	testing	(C & S)	(O & P)	Nick was this also
Current state	Clean Vial	Copan Fecal swab	SAF	Not routinely performed
		(Cary Blair also accepted but no longer distributed)		
Future state (as of September 18) Note – only one fecal swab is required to	A company of	but no longer distributed)	Company of	
perform viral, bacterial (including C. difficile), and parasitic testing	Copan fecal swab Clean Val (Clean vial also accepted but no longer distributed)	Copan fecal swab	Copan fecal swab (SAF in select cases for stool microscopy)	Copan fecal swab

Need More Supplies?

If you require collection devices, please visit lifelabs.com and click the heading "Supplies" under the "Healthcare Providers" tab (https://www.lifelabs.com/healthcare-providers/supplies) for ordering forms or call the Customer Care Centre at 1-800-431-7206.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact our Customer Care Centre at 1-800-431-7206.







2023 Healthcare Providers' Conference: September 28, 2023, Victoria, B.C.

Dr. Diana Whellams, Medical Microbiologist, MD, FRCPC

Planning for our Healthcare Providers' Conference in Victoria, B.C. continues!

The conference will be held at the beautiful Oak Bay Beach Hotel on the evening of Thursday, September 28,

2023 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM.

The evening will begin with a complimentary buffet dinner, followed by short, interactive presentations on lab-related topics, including:

- Panel-based testing for infectious diarrhea Dr. Robert Liao, PhD, D (ABMM)
- ◆ An approach to lymphocytosis Dr. Peter van den Elzen, MD, FRCPC
- ♦ Common chemistry tests demystified Dr. Joanna Jung, PhD
- Testing for drugs of abuse Dr. William Schreiber, MD

There will be lots of time for questions and to mix and mingle with the speakers and your colleagues. Spots are limited, so register now by contacting Jolie Quinton at Jolie.Quinton@Lifelabs.com.

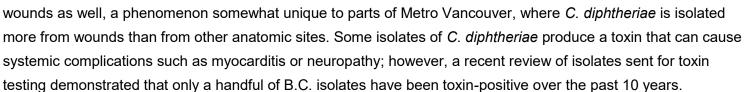
We hope to see you there!



Dr. Diana Whellams, Medical Microbiologist, MD, FRCPC

A recent BCCDC update on toxin testing in *C. diptheriae* may affect some LifeLabs clients and patients.

Corynebacterium diphtheriae is traditionally a respiratory pathogen causing diphtheria, but may also cause skin and soft tissue infections or colonize



As a result, routine toxin testing for *C. diptheriae* isolates from cutaneous sites is being discontinued provincially. However, isolates from other sites (e.g. sputum) will still be tested, and testing from cutaneous sites can still be requested on an individual basis (e.g. if the patient has traveled to a high-risk area) by contacting the Medical Microbiologist on call.

Additional information about the change in *C. diphtheriae* toxin testing can be found at Microsoft Word - LAB LTHD PHMRL 09.doc (bccdc.ca).







