

COVID-19 CADTH REFERENCE LIST

Quick Start: Laboratory Services and COVID-19

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Questions or requests for information about this report can be directed to requests@cadth.ca

About This Document

With the speed of information coming out on COVID-19, our customers often need evidence fast. In the interest of supporting urgent customer needs for reliable evidence, a collection of key citations have been provided upon request. These citations have met customer needs on COVID-19–related topics and are intended to provide a preliminary start to more comprehensive searching or to help frame questions or issues. International scientific evidence about COVID-19 is changing and growing rapidly, so if you'd like to know more please contact requests@cadth.ca or <https://covid.cadth.ca/submit-a-request/>.

Guidelines and Recommendations

Recommendations from RCPATH and professional bodies (IBMS, ACP and ACB) prioritisation/deferral of pathology laboratory work (in light of SARSCoV-2 (COVID19) epidemic). London (UK): Royal College of Pathologists, Institute of Biomedical Science, Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine, Association of Clinical Pathologists; 2020 Mar 26: <https://www.rcpath.org/uploads/assets/f5123842-950f-49c5-bf69ed866a7ca3da/Prioritisation-deferral-of-pathology-laboratory-work.pdf>

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Canadian pandemic influenza preparedness: planning guidance for the health sector - laboratory annex. Ottawa (ON): Pan-Canadian Public Health Network; 2015: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/migration/phac-aspc/cpip-pclcpi/assets/pdf/annex_c-eng.pdf#page=8&zoom=100,0,0

COVID-19 prioritization of diagnostic testing. Arlington (VA): Infectious Diseases Society of America; 2020 Mar 17: <https://www.idsociety.org/globalassets/idsa/public-health/covid-19-prioritization-of-dx-testing.pdf>

Infection Control

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Blood component and product handling for contact and droplet precautions. Edmonton (AB): Alberta Precision Laboratories; 2020 Apr 17: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/lab/wf-lab-bulletin-blood-component-and-product-handling-for-contact-and-droplet-precautions.pdf>

Clinical Specimens/Biosafety

SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus 2) biosafety advisory. Ottawa (ON): Public Health Agency of Canada; 2020 Feb 29: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/laboratory-biosafety-biosecurity/biosafety-directives-advisories-notifications/novel-coronavirus-january-27.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim guidelines for collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens from persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); 2020 May 5: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim laboratory biosafety guidelines for handling and processing specimens associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); 2020 Mar 31: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/lab-biosafety-guidelines.html>

Public Health England. COVID-19: safe handling and processing for samples in laboratories; 2020 May 1: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-guidance-for-clinical-diagnostic-laboratories/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-handling-and-processing-of-laboratory-specimens>

Other Resources

American Society of Hematology. COVID-19 and resuming clinical visits: frequently asked questions. <https://www.hematology.org/covid-19/covid-19-and-resuming-clinical-visits>

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Alberta Health Services. Laboratory services – laboratory bulletins. 2020: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/Page3290.aspx>

Nova Scotia Health Authority. Blood collection – important notice. 2020: <http://www.nshealth.ca/blood-collection>

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Pambuccian SE. The COVID-19 pandemic: implications for the cytology laboratory. *J Am Soc Cytopathol*. 2020;9(3):202-211.
[PubMed: PM32284276](#)

General Guidance

World Health Organization. Country & technical guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). 2020: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for healthcare professionals. 2020: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

COVID-19 guidance: occupational health and safety and infection prevention & control. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; 2020 Mar 20:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_occupational_health_safety_guidance.pdf

Note: this link may not work unless copied and pasted into your web browser.

Prince Edward Island guidelines for the management and control of COVID-19. Prince Edward Island Health and Wellness; 2020 Mar:
https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/20200311_guideline_covid-19_final.pdf

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Non-emergent, elective medical services, and treatment recommendations; 2020 Apr 7: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/cms-non-emergent-elective-medical-recommendations.pdf>