

## HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 15, 2024

RE: Public Health Ontario Updates to Hepatitis C Virus and Hepatitis B Virus Testing

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### QUICK FACTS

- Public Health Ontario (PHO) has implemented changes to Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) testing which include enhancing the HCV RNA viral load reflex testing and updating the [HCV/HBV Viral Load, Genotyping, and Drug Resistance Testing Requisition](#)
- These updates reduce the need to recall patients for follow-up blood collection and simplify test ordering using an updated requisition.
- Please use the updated requisition [form](#). Submissions received using the old HCV/HBV Viral Load Requisition form to PHO past **January 31, 2024 may result in testing delays or cancellations.**

### KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Previously, HCV RNA reflex testing was only performed for individuals with a first-time reactive HCV antibody test. The enhancement has now expanded reflex testing to include individuals who have:
  - A previously reactive HCV antibody but no HCV RNA testing on record
  - A first-time inconclusive HCV antibody test
- The updated [HCV/HBV Viral Load, Genotyping, and Drug Resistance Testing Requisition](#) has been re-designed to simplify ordering HCV RNA/HBV DNA viral load testing and other related tests.
- For further information or questions, please contact the PHO's Laboratory Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567 (toll-free), or email [CustomerServiceCentre@oahpp.ca](mailto:CustomerServiceCentre@oahpp.ca).

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Hepatitis C – Diagnostic Serology | Public Health Ontario](#)
- [HCV/HBV Viral Load, Genotyping, and Drug Resistance Testing Requisition](#)

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA).