

MEMO

DATE: 7/14/2020
TO: Saskatchewan Practitioners and Laboratories
FROM: Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory
RE: GeneXpert SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Results

The Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL) in partnership with all GeneXpert sites carried out validations on each instrument in Saskatchewan for the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test. The GeneXperts listed below all passed their validations, and can now report POSITIVE and NEGATIVE results as final as of June 22, 2020.

Far North	North	Central	South	Urban
Ile a la Crosse La Loche La Ronge Pelican Narrows Stony Rapids	Lloydminster Meadow Lake North Battleford Onion Lake Prince Albert Tisdale	Kindersley Yorkton	Fort Qu'Apelle Moose Jaw Moosimin Swift Current Weyburn	Saskatoon Regina

The GeneXpert SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) test is high quality and Health Canada approved. It is widely used globally and has high sensitivity to detect cases with very low viral loads. We have no reason to doubt GeneXpert results, and patients that are tested on the GeneXpert **should not have follow-up tests to confirm their results.**

If a patient with a very low viral load tests POSITIVE by the GeneXpert, the results may not be reproduced by a second assay. That does not mean that the initial result is false. Direction should be taken from public health based on the combination of symptoms, contacts, and test results.

All laboratories are enrolled in quality assurance programs to ensure ongoing quality of results, and any INDETERMINATE or otherwise equivocal results will still be forwarded to RRPL when necessary.

Safety | Accountability | Respect | Collaboration | Compassion
 With a commitment to a philosophy of Patient and Family Centred Care

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