

Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Physicians and Health Service Directors, Central Zone

From: Dr. Ross Davidson, Director Bacteriology, Central Zone Microbiology
Darlene McPhee, Technical Supervisor, Central Zone Microbiology

Date: October 2, 2020

Subject: **Suspension of processing of bacterial vaginosis slides and stools for ova and parasite**

As of October 2nd, 2020 the Microbiology Laboratory at the QEII HSC has suspended processing of slides for bacterial vaginosis and stools for ova and parasites (microscopy). Due to an unprecedented increase in demand for services related to COVID-19 testing we have implemented our business continuity plan and are unable to process such requests until further notice.

Recommendations:

- For those patients where a strong clinical suspicion of bacterial vaginosis exists, patients should be treated empirically.
- **We will continue to accept and process bacterial vaginosis slides from pregnant patients.** Healthcare providers are requested to clearly indicate that their patient is pregnant on the requisition.
- We will continue to perform EIAs on stool for Cryptosporidium and Giardia only.
- Healthcare providers who have had a bacterial vaginosis slide or stool for ova and parasite cancelled and feel it should be processed are asked to contact the microbiologist on-call.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the laboratory at 902-473-2120, Dr. Davidson 902- 473-5520 or Darlene McPhee at 902-473-7843.