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To / Destinataires : RHA / RRS; New Brunswick Medical Society / Société médicale du Nouveau-Brunswick; Regional Public Health Directors / Directeurs des bureaux régionaux de SP; Regional Medical Officers of Health / les Médecins-hygiénistes régionaux; NBHEOC / COUMSNB;

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Subject / Objet : Point of Care Testing / Le test au point de service

A new instrument will be available for rapid point of care (POC) testing for COVID-19 in symptomatic patients starting December 14, 2020. With a gradual roll-out across the province, these devices will be situated in some rural settings in an effort to improve access to testing. The **Abbott ID Now™ COVID-19** device is a rapid molecular POC testing device that can provide COVID-19 test results within 15 minutes. **ID Now™ COVID-19** detects large amounts of virus present in a combined throat/nasal sample and is used in situations where immediate results are needed and the result can be confirmed with polymerase chain reaction (PCR testing). It is imperative that droplet/contact isolation precautions remain in place until PCR confirmation has been reported.

ID Now™ COVID-19 can only be used in situations of high clinical suspicion:

- with symptomatic people, within 7 days of onset of COVID-19 compatible symptoms, AND with plausible exposure through travel/case contact OR contact with a high-vulnerability setting;

À compter du 14 décembre 2020, un nouvel outil sera disponible pour le dépistage rapide de la COVID-19 au point de service chez les patients symptomatiques. L'outil sera mis en place progressivement dans la province, et certains milieux ruraux en seront pourvus afin de faciliter l'accès au dépistage. **ID Now^{MC} d'Abbott pour le dépistage de la COVID-19** est un appareil de test moléculaire rapide au point de service qui fournit les résultats de tests de dépistage de la COVID-19 en 15 minutes. L'appareil, qui permet de détecter une forte concentration du virus dans un prélèvement nasopharyngé (gorge et nez), est utilisé dans les situations où il faut obtenir des résultats immédiats et où l'on peut confirmer le résultat à l'aide de la réaction en chaîne de la polymérase (test basé sur les acides nucléiques [PCR] en laboratoire). Il est impératif de maintenir les mesures d'isolement pour éviter la transmission par gouttelettes et par contact jusqu'à la confirmation du résultat du test PCR.

Le test de dépistage de la **COVID-19 avec ID Now^{MC}** peut seulement être utilisé en cas de forte suspicion clinique :

- Chez des personnes symptomatiques, dans les 7 jours suivant l'apparition de symptômes associés à la COVID-19, ET dont l'exposition par un contact en voyage ou avec un cas OU

- in a vulnerable setting where there are multiple symptomatic cases and COVID-19 is suspected (i.e. for rapid assessment of widespread illness in long term care facility), under the direction of a medical officer of health.

According to Health Canada, **ID Now™ COVID-19** is a screening tool that is **not** recommended for routine testing of asymptomatic individuals; or beyond day 7 of symptom onset.

All POCT need to be confirmed with a PCR test via the laboratory. Patients should be instructed to self-isolate until the confirmatory test is received, **regardless of the POCT result.**

As you are aware, COVID-19 results are required to be reported under the Reporting and Diseases Regulation of the *Public Health Act*, orally within one hour after identification, to the Regional Medical Officer of Health. This ensures Public Health measures can be put in place while the confirmatory test is conducted; link [here](#).

These screening results will not be entered into the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) or Electronic Health Record (EHR).

Attached is a provider information sheet for additional information and reference.

Thank you for your continued collaboration.

un contact dans un milieu de forte vulnérabilité est plausible.

- Dans un milieu vulnérable où il y a plusieurs cas symptomatiques et où la COVID-19 est soupçonnée (pour une évaluation rapide de l'étendue de la maladie dans un établissement de soins de longue durée) sous la direction d'un médecin-hygiéniste.

Selon Santé Canada, **ID Now^{MC}** est un outil de dépistage de la COVID-19 qui n'est **pas** recommandé pour les tests de routine chez les personnes asymptomatiques ou au-delà de la période d'apparition de 7 jours des symptômes.

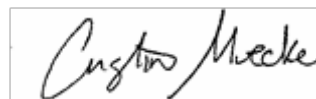
Tous les tests au point de service doivent être confirmés à l'aide d'un test PCR réalisé en laboratoire. Les patients doivent avoir pour instruction de s'isoler jusqu'au résultat du test de confirmation, **peu importe le résultat du test au point de service.**

Comme vous le savez, conformément au *Règlement sur certaines maladies et le protocole de signalement* établi en vertu de la *Loi sur la santé publique*, les résultats de tests pour la COVID-19 doivent être communiqués verbalement au médecin-hygiéniste régional dans l'heure qui suit l'identification. Cette démarche permet de veiller à ce que des mesures de santé publique adéquates puissent être mises en place pendant que le test de confirmation est effectué, lien [ici](#).

Ces résultats de dépistage ne seront pas entrés dans le système de gestion de l'information des laboratoires (SGIL) ou le dossier de santé électronique.

Vous trouverez ci-joint une feuille de renseignements à l'intention des fournisseurs, à titre de complément d'information et de référence.

Je vous remercie de votre collaboration soutenue.



Dr. / D^{re} Cristin Muecke, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health / Médecin-hygiéniste en chef adjointe

Point of Care Testing with Abbott ID Now COVID-19

Primary Care Provider Information Sheet

Point of Care Testing (POCT) refers to patient testing activities provided outside the laboratory, performed by clinical personnel whose primary training is not in the clinical laboratory sciences.

What is ID Now™ COVID-19?

ID Now™ COVID-19 is a rapid molecular POC testing device that can provide COVID-19 test results within 15 minutes. A sample is obtained via a combined throat/nares swab collection by a certified health care professional wearing PPE, using Droplet/Contact Precautions. The swab is placed into an acidic solution within the device that inactivates the virus, which is then heated to break open the viral envelope. If COVID-19 is present in the sample, the viral RNA will be detected, resulting in a presumptively positive test result. As this is a screening device, a second nasopharyngeal swab is obtained simultaneously for confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing in the lab.

When should ID Now™ COVID-19 POC testing be considered?

ID Now™ COVID-19 can only be used in situations of high clinical suspicion:

- with symptomatic people, within 7 days of onset of COVID-19 compatible symptoms, AND with plausible exposure through travel/case contact OR contact with a high vulnerability setting
- in a vulnerable setting where there are multiple symptomatic cases and COVID-19 is suspected (i.e. For rapid assessment of widespread illness in long term care facility) under the direction of a medical officer of health.

When should ID Now™ COVID-19 POC testing NOT be considered?

According to Health Canada, **ID Now™ COVID-19** is a screening tool that is **not** recommended for routine testing of asymptomatic individuals; or beyond day 7 of symptom onset.

Where will Abbott ID Now™ devices be located?

Most devices will be in more rural areas of the province and near borders to enable timely treatment, assist in disease surveillance, prevent transmission events or help contain infectious disease outbreaks.

How is it different from a conventional PCR test?

ID Now™ COVID-19 is used in situations where immediate results are needed and can be supported by confirmatory testing with PCR method. **ID Now™ COVID-19** detects large amounts of virus present in a sample. It provides faster results; but results may be less accurate. Risk of a false negative is mitigated using PCR testing to confirm results.

Why is ID Now™ COVID-19 rapid POCT available now?

These units were recently approved for use in Canada by the federal government. Provinces and territories were provided with an allotment, and the autonomy to determine device location and how to use them in their clinical decision-making process.

Why don't we just use rapid tests for every patient?

While the **Abbott ID Now™ COVID-19** test is faster, less expensive, and can be performed by non-lab personnel; there are limitations. It is more likely to give false negative results, so everyone who is given a rapid test still must have gold standard PCR testing to confirm their diagnosis.

What documentation is necessary for ID Now™ COVID-19?

A log of both results and associated confirmatory sample, as well as documentation of quality assurance/control activities. These screening results will not be entered into the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) or Electronic Health Record (EHR).

How will a positive test result from ID Now™ COVID-19 be reported?

Per the Public Health Reportable Disease Act, COVID-19 is an illness that must be reported by phone to regional Public Health **within 1 hour**. A positive result on **ID Now™ COVID-19** shall be called to the Regional Medical Officer of Health on call so that adequate Public Health measures can be put in place while the confirmatory test is conducted. See Appendix A, or link [here](#).

If the sample tests negative using ID Now™ COVID-19, can isolation measures be removed in hospital or at home?

No, symptomatic or suspect persons should NOT be released from isolation based upon **ID Now™ COVID-19** results. Droplet/contact precautions must be maintained per hospital protocol.

What advice do I give my patient after a negative result from ID Now™ COVID-19?

Advise the patient that this is a preliminary result that will be confirmed with PCR Testing. If discharged to home, they need to remain on self-isolation and await further instruction from Public Health. If PCR results are negative, patient should stay home until they feel better. If symptoms change or get worse, they may need another test. See attached Patient Information Sheet.

What advice do I give my patient after a positive result from ID Now™ COVID-19?

Advise the patient that this is a preliminary result that will be confirmed with PCR Testing, but in the meantime they are considered a case. They **must** remain on isolation, even if they do not have any noticeable symptoms and await further guidance from regional Public Health. See attached Patient Information Sheet.

For more information on how to isolate yourself, click "Self-isolation" on the GNB coronavirus website. www.gnb.ca/coronavirus

Appendix A: Public Health Communicable Disease Team Contact List

Contact information for the RHA Public Health Offices is listed below and is also available on the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health's website: https://www2.qnb.ca/content/qnb/en/departments/ocmoh/healthy_people/content/public_health_clinics.html

Department of Public Safety Public Health Inspectors	Regional Health Authority Public Health Nurses
Central Region Fredericton (Regular hours): Main office (506) 453-2830 Communicable Disease Line (506) 444-5905	Zone 3 Fredericton (Regular hours): Main office (506) 453-5200 Communicable Disease Line (506) 444-5905
Central Region After Hours Emergency Number 1-506-453-8128	
South Region Saint John (Regular hours): Main office (506) 658-3022 Communicable Disease Line (506) 658-5188	Zone 2 Saint John (Regular hours): Main office (506) 658-2454 Communicable Disease Line (506) 658-5188
South Region After Hours Emergency Number 1-506-658-2764	
East Region Moncton (Regular hours): Main office (506) 856-2814 Communicable Disease Line (506) 856-3220	Zone 1 Moncton (Regular hours): Main office (506) 856-2401 Communicable Disease Line (506) 856-3220 Zone 7 Miramichi (Regular hours): Main office (506) 778-6756 Communicable Disease Line (506) 778-6104
East Region After Hours Emergency Number 1-506-856-2004	
North Region Edmundston (Regular hours): Main office (506) 737-4400 Campbellton (Regular hours): Main office (506) 789-2549 Bathurst (Regular hours): Main office (506) 549-5550	Zone 4 Edmundston (Regular hours): Main office: (506) 735-2065 Communicable Disease Line: (506) 735-2626 Zone 5 Campbellton (Regular hours): Main office phone number: (506) 789-2266 Communicable Disease Line (506) 790-4769 Zone 6 Communicable Disease Line (506) 547-2062 Bathurst (Regular hours): Main office phone number: (506) 547-2062 Communicable Disease Line: (506) 547-2067
North Region After Hours Emergency Number 1-506-789-2428	

Note: Regular hours are 8:15 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday.
The after-hours emergency number is to report notifiable diseases after 4:30 pm on weekdays and on the weekends and holidays. The pager is intended for emergency reporting only – operators are asked to keep the after-hours pager number confidential within the facility (only for operators and staff).

Patient Information Sheet

Rapid COVID-19 Testing

You have been selected for rapid testing for COVID-19. Swabs will be used to obtain two samples from your throat and nose – one of which is a deep nose sample (NP). The first sample will be used for rapid testing, and results will be available within 15 minutes. The second sample will be sent to the provincial lab to confirm these results. You will be contacted with your final results in several days. It is very important to stay on self-isolation until the final results have been received.

If my first results are negative for COVID-19:

Negative results indicate that the COVID-19 virus was not detected in your outer nose or throat at the time of the test. It is very important to remember that this initial test result will need to be confirmed by the deep nose sample test at the provincial lab.

You need to continue to self-isolate and follow public health measures (i.e. hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette) even if your initial test result is negative.

- If you remain in hospital, your healthcare provider will provide your final results and further directions about isolation precautions.
- If you have been discharged to home, you may access your final results via myHealthNB; or a member of the Public Health team will call your home with these results. They will also give further directions about self-isolation.

If my first results are positive for COVID-19:

While this is a first report, it is likely that you have COVID-19. It is important that you remain on isolation while results are being confirmed. A member of the Public Health team will be in contact with you to provide further information and advice.

Even if you do not have any noticeable symptoms, you may still be contagious and can spread the virus to others:

- If you remain in hospital, your healthcare provider will provide your final results.
- If you have been discharged to home, you may access your final results via myHealthNB; or a member of the Public Health team will call your home with the results and further care instructions.

Most people with mild illness will recover on their own. Your health care provider may recommend treatment or steps you can take to relieve symptoms. If your symptoms worsen, and you need to contact 911, inform them that you are waiting for COVID-19 test results.

For more information on how to isolate, click "Self-isolation" on the GNB coronavirus website.

www.gnb.ca/coronavirus