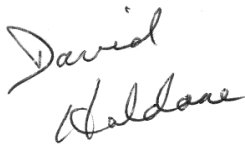


LABORATORY SUPPORT

Group A Streptococcus - Long Term Care Outbreaks with Public Health Involvement

In the event of a Group A Streptococcus (GAS) long term care outbreak with Public Health involvement, all clinical swabs collected during the outbreak investigation will be processed by the Central Zone provincial microbiology lab. After consultation with regional microbiology labs, this process has been instituted to alleviate local capacity issues. Once Public Health declares a GAS outbreak, the regional laboratory and the Central Zone microbiologist on call (czmicrobiologist@nshealth.ca or through locating at 902-473-2220) should be notified by the Medical Officer of Health. The provincial lab will then arrange for E-swabs to be sent to the appropriate regional lab for distribution to testing sites. Once collected, the regional laboratory will ship these E-swabs back to the provincial lab in Halifax for processing and reporting. The Central Zone provincial lab will retain and freeze outbreak isolates and arrange for typing.



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