



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Health and Community Services  
Office of the Chief Medical Officer

COR-2020-086280

March 17, 2020

Robert Thompson, Executive Director  
Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association  
164 Macdonald Dr.  
St. John's, NL  
A1A 4B3

Dear Mr. Thompson:

**RE: CTNG swabs**

Please consider this urgent request to notify community physicians and request return of unused supplies of CTNG Swabs/Media (Chlamydia/Gonorrhea test collection and transportation kits) back to local regional laboratories. We are requesting your assistance in circulating the following message:

The outbreak of COVID-19 is having a profound effect on existing testing supplies and we will shortly use up all of our existing supplies of Nasal Pharyngeal (NP) Swabs and Universal Transport Media (UTM) containers. In order to fill the gap we need to turn to other compatible collection devices for continued COVID-19 testing. We are requesting community physicians to arrange a local courier to pick up unused supplies of **CTNG Swabs/Media containers**. These should be delivered to the nearest laboratory specimen collection centers, or nearest Community Health Centers or Hospital Laboratory. From there these supplies will be returned back to Regional Hospital Laboratories to address needs for COVID-19 testing. Courier costs will be paid for by the local Regional Health Authority.

We appreciate your cooperation as we explore ways to work through these challenges.

Sincerely,

Janice Fitzgerald MD MPH  
Chief Medical Officer of Health (Acting)