

<p><b>IN THIS ISSUE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Update: Public Health Ontario changes to Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) testing and Hepatitis B Viral (HBV) testing and requisition form</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Update: Peel Health Professionals website</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>FROM:</b> Gayane Hovhannisyanyan, MD, MPH, PhD, FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health</p>
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<p><b>Key Messages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Health Ontario has changed HCV and HBV testing, which includes enhancements to HCV RNA viral load reflex testing, and made changes to the test requisition form.</li> <li>▪ These updates will result in reduced patient recall and unnecessary bloodwork.</li> <li>▪ Peel Health Professionals website has been redeveloped and has a new landing page.</li> </ul>
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**Update: Public Health Ontario changes to Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) testing and Hepatitis B Viral (HBV) testing and requisition form**

Public Health Ontario (PHO) has implemented Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) testing updates to allow for enhancements to HCV RNA viral load reflex testing and updates to the HCV/HBV Viral Load, Genotyping and Drug Resistance Testing requisition.

These updates will improve testing process by reducing the need to recall patients for follow-up blood collection and by simplifying test ordering.

Previously, HCV RNA reflex testing was only performed for individuals with a first-time reactive HCV antibody test. The enhancements now expand reflex testing to include individuals who have:

- A previously reactive HCV antibody but no HCV RNA testing on record
- A first-time inconclusive HCV antibody test

Additional information on testing algorithm and interpretation of the results, as well as the link to the updated requisition form, can be found on PHO's

website: [Hepatitis C – Diagnostic Serology | Public Health Ontario](#) which can be found here: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/hepatitis-c-diagnostic-serology>

**Update: Peel Health Professionals website**

Peel Public Health has fully redeveloped our website, including our Health Professionals website. Please bookmark the new address:

<https://peelregion.ca/health/professionals/>

where you will continue to find up-to-date information on Public Health topics and services relevant to health professionals in Peel including:

- **Vaccines** – ordering, storage, handling, and safety.
- **Communicable diseases** – reporting communicable diseases, guidelines and resources, and ordering medication for tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections
- **Infection prevention and control** – including resources for institutional outbreaks
- **Maternal and child health** – pregnancy, infant feeding, and other parenting resources
- **Dental health** – services for children and seniors.
- **Harm reduction** – accessing services, supplies and education
- **Health Professionals Updates** – current and previous 12 months HPUs. Older versions can be requested at [peelhealth@peelregion.ca](mailto:peelhealth@peelregion.ca)

A reminder that <https://www.peelregion.ca/health/> contains information on topics and services that may be of benefit to your patients.