



VIA MAIL

July 23, 2021

Dylan Robertson
FreePress
501-150 Wellington St
Ottawa ON K1P 5A4

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part 2 of
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:
(Our File No. SH 2021-098-423992))

On June 23, 2021, Shared Health received your request for access to the following records:

SH2021-098-423992

"I am seeking the monthly numbers for all months of 2020 -not just the fall - that show how many of each test were complete (the raw number and not just the percentage that were approved).

I would like to know, for example, how many Mycology-culture tests were done in March 2020, or how the number of throat-swab requests rejected in November 2020.

That means the following information that was not included in the previous request:

- the raw number (not percentage) of tests done
- sorted by the form of test
- the number of test requests denied for each
- including all months of 2020, before and after the policy change."

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in part.

Please note the attached table for the number of samples rejected due to work reduction in top table. There are no rejects associated with work reduction for the months of Jan to September in 2020. The attached table is the sample volume.

As you requested a copy of the records, and as they can reasonably be reproduced, in accordance with clause 14(1)(a) of the *Act*, copies of the records that are accessible under the *Act* are enclosed.

Please note that we do not have the capability to sort the rejects by test type and access to the remaining records that you requested is refused, as these records contain information that falls within the following exceptions to disclosure in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

- 12(1) In a response under section 11, the head of the public body shall inform the applicant
 - (c) if access to the record is refused,
 - (i) in the case of a record that does not exist or cannot be located, that the record does not exist or cannot be located.

Subsection 59(1) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that you may make a complaint about our decision respecting your request for access to the Manitoba Ombudsman. You have 60 days from the receipt of this letter to make a complaint on the prescribed form to:

Manitoba Ombudsman
750 - 500 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1
204 982-9130
1-800-665-0531

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Tiffany Dewan Reimer, Access and Privacy Officer, in writing at the Room 1502A, 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8 or by telephone at (204) 926-8022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Von Schindler', is written over a faint, illegible background.

for Christina Von Schindler
FIPPA Access & Privacy Coordinator

CVS/tdr

Encl.

Please see below the number of samples rejected due to work reduction in top table. There are no rejects associated with work reduction for the months of Jan to September in 2020. The following table is the sample volume. As per our response letter we do not have the capability to sort the rejects by test type.

Micro REJ Volume	Reg Date			Grand Total
	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Covid REJ	1851	2088	1414	5353
Grand Total	1851	2088	1414	5353

Test Volume	Column Labels												Grand Total
	2020												
Work Lab	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
16S Gene Seq	19	9	11	9	12	3	11	16	24	12	7	14	147
A.S.O.T.	1												1
Blood culture(1)	3779	3325	3003	2304	2661	2863	3293	3280	3179	3125	3208	3464	37484
Blood culture(2)	3324	2882	2665	2071	2470	2491	2937	3012	2868	2850	2863	3100	33533
Blood culture(3)	74	70	51	53	53	73	64	53	66	63	70	95	785
Blood for AFB	8	5	8	5	4	6	7	8	7	6	5	1	70
BM for Fungi	5	2	5	2	3	7	3	4	1	3	3	1	39
Bone Marrow AFB	5	3	5	2	3	6	3	4	1	2	1		35
Bronchial wash	58	43	41	13	24	21	20	13	28	34	10	28	333
C.S.F.	157	196	159	137	149	153	195	167	170	162	129	169	1943
Capd dialysate	34	25	31	17	21	29	33	38	26	27	20	17	318
Catheter urine	825	689	585	486	577	566	664	628	699	656	656	718	7749
Corneal scraping	5	12	3	5	5	4	5	2	7	7	2	3	60

CPO Surve Cult	13	57	26	12	10	7	13	5	9	13	5	6	176
Cryptococcus Ag.	50	36	59	41	37	42	48	46	55	58	46	39	557
CSF for fungi	23	19	20	16	19	2	2	1	1	1		4	108
Culture referred	27	29	19	16	24	17	20	27	27	13	23	16	258
Cystic Fib Resp.	52	45	40	10	24	25	18	26	32	40	14	18	344
Dermat. Culture	384	366	291	107	236	324	330	326	353	83	22	40	2862
Device culture	13	10	11	6	10	14	7	9	10	12	5	4	111
Dupont isolator	5	2	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	2			29
Ear swab	67	58	53	26	46	47	60	57	59	28	23	13	537
Endotracheal	390	310	235	219	181	226	227	252	226	283	365	480	3394
Eye swab	84	91	60	41	51	71	56	71	66	25	21	35	672
Fluid for AFB	164	158	126	122	107	139	183	176	159	180	173	124	1811
Fluid for Anaer.	386	379	350	258	328	346	399	372	356	379	295	307	4155
Fluid in BACT/AL	29	39	25	29	23	25	39	43	23	22	15	22	334
Fluids	444	414	357	290	361	380	430	413	393	439	346	338	4605
Fungal culture	585	478	435	261	384	453	419	414	458	394	259	327	4867
GC Culture	57	52	44	33	59	56	47	40	50	20	15	10	483
H.pylor stool Ag	56	52	53	9	30	50	62	47	45	47	52	44	547
Heli.pylori cult	365	378	266	56	150	337	358	341	395	332	250	256	3484
HSC Referred Org	10	8	3	4	1	3	15	6	5	1	6	5	67
I.V. Tip	37	25	32	24	21	28	38	36	33	32	29	38	373
INF RSV PCR	1048	716	1156	782	388	103	106	135	173	5	4	23	4639
Leg Urinary Ag	14	8	27	8	6	29	2	2	7	4	5	9	121
Legionella spec	84	95	83	50	90	96	73	66	107	7	1	5	757
Midstream Urine	3155	2831	2562	1970	2459	2753	3132	2882	3121	3055	2812	2767	33499
Misc for Anaer.	39	24	27	28	23	39	25	37	23	15	7	5	292
Misc Genital Sp	53	45	46	44	52	58	55	60	50	29	22	19	533
Misc. Resp	24	16	19	13	7	19	17	18	17	11	11	16	188
Misc. urine	775	668	706	520	672	647	741	653	676	612	524	512	7706
Monospot spec	48	49	65	30	33	53	33		1				312
Monospot test	394	323	295	206	172	270	199	258	297	219	165	167	2965

MRSA culture	3838	3566	3458	2676	3312	3546	3867	3571	3645	3293	2724	2624	40120
MTB PCR Test	85	112	95	82	80	55	55	54	70	59	45	41	833
Nasal swab	29	25	15	7	18	25	21	10	18	15	8	10	201
Orth Samp Anaer	89	88	107	29	80	71	106	60	62	101	48	84	925
Orth Samp Yeast	89	88	105	29	80	71	106	60	62	79	20	84	873
Orthoped Sample	85	87	107	29	79	68	104	59	62	98	45	81	904
Orthoped Swab	4	1			1	3	2	1		3	3	3	21
Pertussis	30	27	16	8	1	2	3	4	1	2		2	96
Pharmacy spec	168	206	207	222	189	195	258	190	228	235	213	235	2546
Quan BAL	97	107	80	56	87	91	85	68	98	90	61	92	1012
Refd Out Testing	15	16	13	8	10	8	21	19	7	20	9	10	156
Resp for Anaer.	17	7	11	9	6	16	13	13	9	4	2		107
Respiratory AFB	977	1034	836	560	739	595	612	581	680	582	455	516	8167
Sputum	350	317	228	166	162	155	175	177	213	103	51	37	2134
Sterile Fld Swab	22	19	16	18	13	24	20	18	15	11	14	10	200
Sterility quant	121	160	130	150	148	157	112	128	100	133	109	121	1569
Stillbirth Proto	11	8	19	15	16	24	8	20	12	29	14	20	196
Stool culture	519	476	441	285	353	432	543	496	477	211	163	163	4559
Stool for AFB	15	12	10	6	11	10	9	6	4	1	4	11	99
Stool for C.DIF	656	577	667	504	521	636	648	644	642	606	571	605	7277
Strep Antigen	1279	1060	820	270	274	394	384	370	416	367	286	223	6143
Suprapubic asp	1	3	3	3	5	4	3	2	17	8	5	4	58
Throat swab	2543	2277	1900	659	723	752	882	819	898	636	271	185	12545
Tissue / biopsy	241	187	205	119	172	240	243	202	212	238	209	195	2463
Tissue Anaer.	211	167	171	110	158	207	215	191	183	181	112	99	2005
Tissue for AFB	98	87	84	45	86	102	98	74	97	99	80	71	1021
Trich Antigen	1679	1463	1238	826	1075	1247	1470	1288	1471	639	476	315	13187
Uriswab Cult	7569	6863	6334	4908	5878	6507	6827	6481	6628	5201	2939	3087	69222
Vag for BHS	8	2	5	2	5	4	6	6	7	4	4	7	60
Vag/Rectal BHS	723	611	619	659	591	690	676	593	600	572	568	625	7527
Vaginal swab	11	11	9	2	6	5	3	7	16	1	5	2	78

Vaginosis/Vagini	1769	1476	1275	855	1154	1279	1479	1333	1537	646	455	325	13583
VRE culture		3	1			3	3	2	3	3	3		21
Wound for Anaer. Wound	182	165	163	125	166	191	175	203	171	144	45	64	1794
swab/Drain	2396	2078	2069	1786	2119	2409	3056	2984	2769	2422	1729	1656	27473
Yeast culture	108	93	99	75	84	105	140	107	125	84	56	42	1118
Environmental					1	6							7
PFGE Test							2			2			4
Supra.for Anaer.									12	4			16
Rectal swab									3				3
COVID-19 RNA				7	25	13	606	57	366	3150	9058	11433	24715
COVID-19 ID NOW												179	179
Urine Vacutainer												566	566
GeneXpert TB PCR												4	4
Sputum for fungi												4	4
Grand Total	45147	40176	37179	26949	32257	34910	39420	36875	38015	36749	36601	39605	443883

October 16, 2020

CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Phase II – Temporary Changes in the Test Menu Available at HSC, SBH, and Westman Clinical Microbiology Laboratories to Accommodate Increased COVID-19 NAAT Testing

Date effective: October 19, 2020

Background Information

Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC), St. Boniface Hospital (SBH), and Westman Laboratory have been mandated to further increase nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) for SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) for patients at their sites as well as referral hospital sites. To accommodate this testing with a static labour force, additional clinical microbiology laboratory tests will be temporarily suspended while demands for COVID-19 NAAT remain high.

Change in Test Procedure

The following have been added to the list of temporarily suspended clinical microbiology tests:

- Anaerobic bacterial cultures (exceptions: blood cultures, sterile site cultures)
- Mycology (yeast and mould) cultures (exceptions: cultures of tissues from immunocompromised patients, respiratory cultures). *Candida* will continue to be reported where clinically appropriate.
- Sputum culture (exceptions: CF patients, ETT secretions from ICU patients)
- Throat swabs

Phase I list of clinical microbiology tests that were previously suspended (October 2, 2020 memo):

- Bacterial vaginosis (BV) Gram stain assessments
- Breast milk cultures
- Dermatophyte cultures
- Ear (external) and eye (routine) cultures
- Genital swab cultures – including cultures for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- *Legionella* cultures
- Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) testing
- Stool cultures
- *Trichomonas* testing – vaginal swabs
- Urine culture for outpatient reproductive age (18-45 years) women with typical symptoms of acute cystitis (uncomplicated infection) – samples from pregnant women will continue to be processed
- Ward screens for MRSA and CPOs (carbapenemase-producing organisms) – admission screens will continue to be accepted

Patient Impact

- Contact the appropriate Clinical Microbiology Laboratory if individual patient culture or testing is critical.

Contact Information

Dr. Amin Kabani, Medical Director, Laboratory Services, Shared Health, 204.926-7861, AKabani7147@sharedhealthmb.ca

Dr. James Karlowsky, Medical Director, Clinical Microbiology, Shared Health, 204-237-2105, jkarlowsky@sharedhealthmb.ca

Joelle Carlson, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology, Shared Health 204-237-2073, jcarlson@sharedhealthmb.ca