



June 2007

Herpes Simplex Virus Testing - Culture

To Health Care Providers:

The Ontario Public Health Laboratories are changing the methodology for the isolation and typing of herpes simplex virus (HSV). The conventional virus culture tube method is being replaced by the Enzyme Linked Virus Inducible System (ELVIS) culture for the detection and typing of herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2.

The new culture method is specific for and limited to the detection of HSV 1 and HSV 2. Isolation samples requesting only herpes simplex (V21) and all genital swabs requesting virus culture (V42) will be tested by this method only.

Samples requesting the isolation of other viruses as well as HSV will also be tested by conventional tube or shell vial culture. If the isolation of viruses other than HSV is required, specify the additional virus(es) on the requisition so that the lab can determine the appropriate test method.

Reporting

Results will be reported as follows:

Test	Result
HSV culture	Negative
HSV culture	Positive – Herpes Simplex Type 1
HSV culture	Positive – Herpes Simplex Type 2

Implementation

Samples received at the Central Public Health Laboratory (Toronto) are now being tested by this new methodology. Implementation in the Regional Laboratories is currently underway and will be completed by the end of October.

For Further Information:

- Virus Detection Lab at 416-235-5731
- OPHL HELPLINE at 1-800-640-7221