

January 20th, 2026

26-07

To: IH Providers in the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap and Kootenay Areas
From: Dr. Bing Wang, Medical Microbiologist
Melinda Carrier, Health Service Director
IH Microbiology Laboratory Working Group

Re: Expansion of Fungal Culture Testing at Kelowna General Hospital Laboratory:
Thompson Cariboo Shuswap and Kootenay Areas

The IH laboratory program is pleased to announce Phase II of a planned expansion of mycology services at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH).

Effective January 27th, 2026, deep and sterile specimens for filamentous fungal culture collected in the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap (TCS) and Kootenay Areas will be tested and reported at KGH. Previously, specimens for deep and sterile fungal culture were submitted to BCCDC for testing.

This expansion will improve Interior Health's capacity to detect, identify and manage fungal infections, while providing faster turnaround time on fungal identifications.

Important Information

- Deep and sterile specimens collected in the Thompson Cariboo Shuswap and Kootenay Areas will be tested at KGH.
 - Specimens include: bronchoscopy, sterile body fluid and abscess fluid and tissue
 - Blood and bone marrow will continue to be tested at BCCDC

Note: Dermatophyte specimens (skin scrapings, nail and hair) will continue to be sent to Royal Inland Hospital (RIH) for culture.

- Ordering and collection instructions for fungal cultures can be found in the Microbiology Test Directory ("Fungal Culture, Deep"):
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/microbiology-guide-to-specimen-ordering-collection-and-transport-information.pdf>

Action Required

- Continue to submit specimens for fungal culture to your local IH laboratory. Deep and sterile specimens will be forwarded to KGH for testing.
- Results will be available in EMR and CareConnect.