

Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory Whole Genome Sequencing Survey

As of March 1, 2021, the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory (RRPL) completed the validation process to support whole genome sequencing. This test determines that a positive COVID-19 case is a variant of concern, as well as what type of variant.

The RRPL has the capacity to test up to 190 confirmed COVID-19 case samples per week and will continue to send up to 120 samples per week to the National Microbiology Lab in Winnipeg to ensure a larger sample size.

The RRPL completed an initial survey of confirmed cases from mid-January through February, as per the table below, focusing testing on COVID-19 positive results linked to international travel, declared outbreaks and cases of unexpected severe illness, as well as a random sampling of confirmed cases.

