

Who are Lab Professionals?

Medical laboratory professionals are dedicated health care professionals that provide accurate and timely laboratory test results to physicians to help make critical medical decisions. They are often working behind closed doors, with little interaction with the patients they serve, however their role in patient care is vital to the entire health care system. There are approximately 1.2 million laboratory tests performed every day in Canada. Each one is done by qualified and skilled medical laboratory professionals. Laboratory tests provide a wealth of knowledge to physicians and are required for the diagnosis and treatment of the thousands of health issues that affect Canadians every day, such as the:

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  500 Cases of cancer diagnosed every day |  70,000 Heart attacks occur in Canada each year |  2,000 Units of donated blood are needed everyday |  14,000 Traumas occur every day |
|--|---|--|---|

COVID-19

Behind the COVID-19 scene, medical lab professionals have been putting in long hours to ensure that COVID PCR test results get to the patients and their doctors as quickly as possible. to date, over 24 million PCR tests have been completed in Ontario alone.

But we are known for much more. Here is a snap shot of who we are and what we do

Medical Laboratory Technologist

Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) are an important part of the health care professional team. Using a variety of complex instruments, they analyze tissue samples, blood and other body fluids as a part of the diagnostic procedure. MLTs provide the results of these sophisticated tests to physicians, allowing them to make accurate diagnosis and if needed, appropriate treatment.

Medical Laboratory Assistant

Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) work under the supervision of a Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT), performing the practical components of sample analysis. MLAs sort, prepare and sometimes process samples that will be tested and analyzed by a MLT. MLAs often collect samples, such as blood, and are the laboratory professional that likely interacts directly with patients.

Lab professionals specialize in several areas:

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Conducts tests on blood and body fluid to detect chemicals, hormones and/or drugs.

Common Test: Blood Glucose (blood sugar) to diagnose and monitor diabetes.

CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Conducts tests on blood, body fluid and/or tissue samples to detect bacteria, fungi, viruses, and/or parasites.

Common Test: Throat swab to detect strep throat.

HEMATOLOGY

Conducts tests to measure blood cells and to detect diseases/disorders of the blood.

Common Test: Hemoglobin Test to detect anemia.

TRANSFUSION SCIENCE

Conducts blood typing and blood compatibility tests.

Common Test: Cross-matching for blood transfusions.

HISTOLOGY

Prepares samples of body tissue for tests to detect disease.

Common Test: Biopsy of a breast lump.

CYTOLOGY

Conducts tests on cells taken from the body to detect cancer.

Common Test: Pap test to detect cervical cancer.

<https://medlabprofessionals.ca/>