

<b>DATE:</b>	April 3, 2020
<b>TO:</b>	All Community Ordering Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories & DynaLIFE
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Clarification of Cessation of Routine Laboratory Testing during COVID-19 Pandemic</b>

**Key Message:**

- Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE strongly recommend cessation of routine laboratory testing (as determined clinically) for stable community patients.
- Patients who require **laboratory tests required for immediate management** will be served and **all testing ordered on the requisition will be performed.**
- **No patients will be denied service and all necessary specimens will be collected.**
- Clinical judgment and prudent use of limited laboratory resources are the ordering provider's responsibility and greatly appreciated.

**Background:**

- Alberta declared a public health emergency on March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-cmoh-public-health-emergency-declaration.pdf>
- See the previous memorandum dated March 25, 2020: (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-apl-memo-physicians-cease-non-essential.pdf>).
- Minimization of patients at Patient Service Centers/ Patient Care Centers (PSCs/PCCs) and other lab collection sites will reduce the potential for viral transmission, protecting patients and staff.
- Eliminating collection of specimens that are currently unnecessary will allow APL and DynaLIFE staff to safely serve patients.

**Action Required:**

- Discontinue ordering of routine and non-essential tests immediately, based on your clinical judgment.
- Limit all orders, including standing (recurring) orders, to those which are required for immediate patient management.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL  
[Carolyn.OHara@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Carolyn.OHara@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE  
[Raymond.Lai@dynalife.ca](mailto:Raymond.Lai@dynalife.ca)

This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:

Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL  
Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE