

DATE:	April 30, 2020
TO:	All Physicians and Ordering Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories
RE:	Rural Outpatient Laboratories in Acute/Urgent Care Facilities During COVID-19 Pandemic

Key Messages & Background

- As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve in Alberta, so too do our response measures and supports throughout the system.
- On March 25, 2020 a memo from Alberta Precision Laboratories and DynaLIFE strongly recommended that physicians cease ordering routine or non-essential lab work. The memo was further clarified on April 3 to explain that physicians are asked to use their clinical judgement to determine if a patient's lab work is medically necessary. <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-apl-memo-physicians-cease-non-essential-2020-04-03.pdf>
- To further support this recommendation **rural outpatient laboratories will implement collections by appointment only**
- By moving to appointment-only lab collections for those patients most in need, we limit traffic in and out of the hospitals and enhance physical distancing. This reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission and allows us to make the best use of our laboratory resources.
- We will work with physicians and other ordering providers to ensure they are aware of these service changes.
- With these new measures in place, we are able to enhance safety to those most vulnerable by ensuring immunocompromised or self-isolating patients can be served separate from the general patient population
- No patients requiring medically necessary laboratory testing will be denied service, however they may be offered an available upcoming appointment time or redirected to an alternative collection site.
- We recognize that these are difficult, stressful times and that any change in service may be concerning for patients. Our number one priority is protecting the health of Albertans.

Action Required

- Physicians and ordering providers whose patients requires medically necessary laboratory testing may book appointments on behalf of their patients utilizing the contact information attached to this memo applicable to their laboratory's location
- Patients may also book their own appointments utilizing the contact information attached to this memo applicable to their laboratory's location
- Impacted sites as identified in the attachment will receive site specific memos with further details

Effective: Week of May 4, 2020

Questions/Concerns

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Approved by

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Attachment

Book by phone: 1.833.572.0577 Book online: <https://aplappointments.ca/>

Athabasca Healthcare Centre	Grande Cache Community Health Complex	Provost Health Centre
Barrhead Healthcare Centre	Grimshaw & District Community Health Centre	Raymond Health Centre
Bassano Health Centre	Hanna Health Centre	Redwater Health Centre
Bashaw Health Centre	Hardisty Health Centre	Rimbey Community Health Centre
Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital	High Prairie Health Complex	Rocky Mountain House Health Centre
Bonnyville Healthcare Centre	Hinton Healthcare Centre	Slave Lake Healthcare Centre
Bow Island Health Centre	Innisfail Health Centre	George McDougall - Smoky Lake Healthcare Centre
Boyle Healthcare Centre	Seton - Jasper Healthcare Centre	Spirit River - Central Peace Health Complex
Cardston Health Centre	Killam Health Care Centre	St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre
Castor Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital	William J. Cadzow - Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre	Stettler Hospital and Care Centre
Coaldale Health Centre	Lacombe Community Health Centre	Sundre Healthcare Centre
Cold Lake Healthcare Centre	Lamont Health Care Centre	Swan Hills Healthcare Centre
Consort Hospital and Care Centre	Leduc Community Hospital	Sylvan Lake Community Health Centre
Coronation Hospital and Care Centre	Manning Community Health Centre	Taber Health Centre
Crowsnest Pass Health Centre	Mayerthorpe Healthcare Centre	Three Hills Health Centre
Daysland Health Centre	Sacred Heart Community Health Centre	Tofield Health Centre
Devon General Hospital	Milk River Health Centre	Two Hills Health Centre
Drayton Valley Community Health Centre	Morinville Clinic	Valleyview Health Centre
Drumheller Health Centre	Olds Hospital and Care Centre	Vegreville - St. Joseph's General Hospital
Edson Healthcare Centre	Onoway Community Health Services	Vermilion Health Centre
Elk Point Healthcare Centre	Oyen - Big Country Hospital	Viking Health Centre
Fairview Health Complex	Peace River Community Health Centre	Wabasca / Desmarais Health Care Centre
Fort Macleod Health Centre	Picture Butte - Piyami Health Centre	Wainwright Health Centre
Fox Creek Healthcare Centre	Pincher Creek Health Centre	Westlock Healthcare Centre
Gibbons Health Unit	Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre	Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre
		Whitecourt Healthcare Centre

Book by phone: 1.877.868.6848 Book online: <http://www.calgarylabservices.com/>

Banff Mineral Springs Hospital	High River Hospital
Black Diamond Oilfields General Hospital	Okotoks Health and Wellness Centre
Canmore General Hospital	Strathmore District Health Services
Claresholm General Hospital	Vulcan Health Centre
Didsbury District Health Services	

Sites with nearby DynaLife collection locations will be temporarily CLOSED to outpatient collections; patients will be directed to the nearby DynaLIFE location

Book by phone: 1.877.702.4486 Book online: <https://booking.dynalifedx.com/>

Camrose St. Mary's Hospital – Collection will be performed at Camrose DynaLife Laboratory
Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital – Collection will be performed at Fort Saskatchewan DynaLife Laboratory
Stony Plain WestView Health Centre – Collection will be performed at Spruce Grove, Devon, or Leduc DynaLife Laboratory