

DATE:	May 8, 2020
TO:	All Community Ordering Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories & DynaLIFE
RE:	Continuation of ordering only clinically necessary laboratory testing during COVID-19 Pandemic

Our number one priority during the COVID-19 pandemic is protecting the health of Albertans. We thank you for your cooperation during this pandemic with **only ordering blood work deemed medically necessary, based on your clinical opinion** and decreasing the number of community patients coming to our Patient Service/Care Centers (PSC/PCC)/rural hospital labs.

As AHS begins to open up more clinical services, we ask for your patience as we continue to re-evaluate our laboratory services to balance the needs for your patients' laboratory testing while ensuring patient safety. **Your continued cooperation to only order medically necessary testing is greatly appreciated.** This will give us needed time to implement solutions enabling us to serve more patients during these challenging circumstances, recognizing that until physical distancing restrictions are lifted, we will not be able to return to pre-pandemic patient flow and volumes.

Safety of patients is paramount. The lab has put a number of enhanced measures in place at collection sites to ensure the safety of our patients and staff during the pandemic:

- Screening all patients before they enter the facility
- Ensuring social distancing by reducing the number of chairs in the waiting rooms
- Frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces
- Offering special appointments for immunocompromised patients
- Using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Closing some lab collection locations where social distancing couldn't be reliably maintained
- Expanding appointment bookings for community collections across the province

These measures are crucial in maintaining safe collection practices during the current pandemic, however they result in decreased efficiency of patient flow through collection sites. Therefore, lab is unable to function at pre-pandemic patient collection capacity.

APL and DynaLIFE continue to assess and monitor the situation and will provide updates on our websites as the situation evolves.

Resources:

Previous memos for reference: [April 3](#) and [March 25](#) 2020

Advice to the Profession: COVID-19: Defining "Urgent". College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, published April 2020. http://www.cpsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AP_COVID-19-Defining-Urgent.pdf

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:

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