

DATE:	2022 January 10
TO:	Bonnyville Physicians, Healthcare Providers, Laboratory Staff
FROM:	Megan Boire, Manager Area 3 North Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Temporary Change to Bonnyville C.difficile Antigen Testing

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Key Message

- Due to the evolving situation with COVID-19 (support pandemic efforts) and therefore low staffing levels at the Bonnyville lab, effective **January 4, 2022, samples collected for C.difficile Antigen testing** will be sent to the DynaLife Medical Labs in Edmonton for testing for an indeterminate time.
 - DynaLife Medical Laboratories uses a two step algorithm for the detection C.difficile using PCR and toxin antigen detection. For details regarding DynaLIFE testing please see the Bulletin from Oct 22, 2018, C. difficile testing and results, [found here](#).
 - Please have the patient collect an **unpreserved** stool sample and transport to DynaLife Medical Labs, Edmonton. Specimens collected in Enteric Transport Media or any type of preservative are not suitable for testing.
 - Impact turnaround times for reporting results will be minimal.

Background

- This change is in addition to routine microbiology testing removed earlier this year.
- Current staffing levels at the site do not support the processing and testing of microbiology. This change enhances the lab's ability to sustain essential testing at the site.
- As staffing levels increase this change will be reevaluated.

How this will impact you

- Results delivery will follow the same process as for other referred out testing. Results will not be available in Meditech. Refer to Netcare.

Action Required

- No change in ordering.

Questions/Concerns

- Dr. Bob Verity, Interim Microbiology Director, DynaLIFE Tel: (780) 451-3702 Ext. 8157 or DynaLIFE Microbiologist On-Call Tel: (780) 451-3702
- Megan Boire: Manager, Area 3, North Sector, APL Megan.Boire@albertaprecisionlabs.ca
- Mireille Kattar: Clinical Pathologist, Area 3, North Sector, APL Mireille.Kattar@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Michael Mengel, North Sector Medical Director, APL Chair Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Alberta
- Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, Dynalife Medical Labs