

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 September 13
<b>TO:</b>	South Zone Public Health, Emergency Operations Centre, Assessment Centres, Healthcare Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Public Health Laboratory and South Zone Laboratories
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Testing Location Change for South Zone Assessment Centre COVID-19 Samples</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective September 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, COVID-19 samples collected at South Zone Assessment Centres will be tested at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) satellite site (CFIA) in Lethbridge.
- The NML is working with Public Health Laboratories nationwide, including the APL - Public Health Laboratory to provide surge testing capacity for COVID-19.
- This will add to the capacity of the existing testing laboratories in the province and reduce turnaround times related to sample transport.

### Why this is important

- The COVID-19 pandemic response is dependent on continued very high testing levels and as such, accessing further capacity will contribute to meeting these high testing demands.

### Actions Required

- Samples will be routed to the appropriate testing site by the Laboratory. No further action is required.
- Results will be available on Netcare and all downstream reporting and notification processes remain unchanged.

### For questions about testing or results contact

- Chinook Regional Hospital Lab at 403-388-6057, [CHI.LABL.DC.TECHS@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:CHI.LABL.DC.TECHS@albertahealthservices.ca). All queries will be investigated and routed for appropriate follow up and response on days and evenings, 7 days per week.

### All other inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Wilson Chan, Medical Microbiologist, 403-770-3338, [wilson.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:wilson.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Tamara Trotter, Director, 403-388-5267, [tamara.trotter@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:tamara.trotter@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical Scientific Director, Public Health, APL