

Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)

Date: March 1, 2019
To: All Alberta physicians
From: Craig Ivany, CEO, Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)
Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, (interim) Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL
RE: A new, integrated public laboratory model in Alberta

Physician colleagues,

Alberta Public Laboratories (APL) is Canada's first fully-integrated laboratory medicine organization. It is the consolidation of lab services previously provided by AHS, Calgary Lab Services (CLS), Covenant Health and Lamont Health Care Centre. In 2022, services currently provided by DynaLIFE will be added to APL. Over 6,000 staff from across the province are consolidated into the single organization.

APL was formed in 2018 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of parent organization Alberta Health Services (AHS). Other wholly-owned subsidiaries of AHS include: Carewest, CapitalCare, and former Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS).

What you need to know

- Current lab services will continue to operate in their existing facilities as part of APL;
- Over the coming months, you will see changes with the addition of the APL name on forms, requisitions, and other visual lab identifiers under the new APL banner;
- Phone numbers and addresses will remain unchanged;
- You are not required to make any changes right now. Information related to APL will be communicated as necessary.

Patient and health provider focused

Fully integrated laboratory services combined into a single system under APL will provide patients with more timely, consistent results, and will contribute to improved patient outcomes, value to the taxpayer, and financial sustainability.

This consolidation step is a foundational change allowing APL to streamline processes, reduce variation in testing, and improve healthcare provider and patient access to laboratory information. Patients across Alberta will be assured the same access to lab diagnostics regardless of their location.

Health system savings, research & innovation

More than 75 million lab tests are done in Alberta yearly which provides vital information that informs patient care decisions. High-quality, responsive diagnostic lab services are integral to health for all.

A unique opportunity is presented through APL as a catalyst to increase efficiencies, reduce system costs, attract innovators, promote growth and sustainability in laboratory medicine, and fully leverage investments and strategic alliances to establish Alberta as a nationally recognized laboratory leader.

New testing capabilities will enable more tests to be done within Alberta, including genetics and genomics testing – an important part of personalized healthcare.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out through Labmodel@albertapubliclabs.ca.