

DATE:	April 3, 2020
TO:	All Community Ordering Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories & DynaLIFE
RE:	Clarification of Cessation of Routine Laboratory Testing during COVID-19 Pandemic

Key Message:

- Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and DynaLIFE strongly recommend cessation of routine laboratory testing (as determined clinically) for stable community patients.
- Patients who require **laboratory tests required for immediate management** will be served and **all testing ordered on the requisition will be performed.**
- **No patients will be denied service and all necessary specimens will be collected.**
- Clinical judgment and prudent use of limited laboratory resources are the ordering provider's responsibility and greatly appreciated.

Background:

- Alberta declared a public health emergency on March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-cmoh-public-health-emergency-declaration.pdf>
- See the previous memorandum dated March 25, 2020: (<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-apl-memo-physicians-cease-non-essential.pdf>).
- Minimization of patients at Patient Service Centers/ Patient Care Centers (PSCs/PCCs) and other lab collection sites will reduce the potential for viral transmission, protecting patients and staff.
- Eliminating collection of specimens that are currently unnecessary will allow APL and DynaLIFE staff to safely serve patients.

Action Required:

- Discontinue ordering of routine and non-essential tests immediately, based on your clinical judgment.
- Limit all orders, including standing (recurring) orders, to those which are required for immediate patient management.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL
Carolyn.OHara@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE
Raymond.Lai@dynalife.ca

This memorandum has been reviewed and approved by:

Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL
Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE