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| <b>DATE:</b> | 22 June 2026                                                                        |
| <b>TO:</b>   | Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Clinics in Fort McMurray, Edmonton and Calgary |
| <b>FROM:</b> | Point of Care Testing (POCT), Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)                  |
| <b>RE:</b>   | <b>Implementation of POCT Wet Mount and Gram Stain Testing Program</b>              |

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### Key Message

- Effective June 8, a new Alberta Precision Labs (APL) program is available to support high quality and safe wet mount and gram stain POCT on vaginal and/or urethral swabs in STI clinics listed in Table 1. In addition, patient results will now appear in Epic, Netcare, and patient result portals.

Table 1.

| Zone     | Location                                |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| North    | Fort McMurray Community Health Services |
| Edmonton | Edmonton General Continuing Care Centre |
| Calgary  | Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre         |

### Background

- To effectively support patient safety and to stay compliant with College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) laboratory accreditation standards, APL and the three STI Clinics listed in Table 1 recently developed education, training, and competency assessment resources as well as a comprehensive quality assurance (QA) program to support wet mount and gram stain POCT in the clinics. In addition, a new Manual Test Result Entry functionality has been built in the provincial POCT middleware, AegisPOC, to allow results to stream into Epic, Netcare, and patient result portals.

### Actions Required

- Be aware of the **APL Provincial POCT Wet Mount and Gram Stain Program** located on AHS InSite (InSite Home>Teams>Lab Services>Our Services>Point of Care Testing>Provincial POCT Wet Mount and Gram Stain Program)
- Follow the necessary steps to educate and inform yourself and your clinical team on correct clinical usage, testing practice and program requirements.

### Questions

| Zone  | Calgary                                                            | Edmonton                                                             | North                                                          |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
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### Approved by

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL