

<b>DATE:</b>	14 November 2023
<b>TO:</b>	Clinical Care Providers, North and Central Zones
<b>FROM:</b>	Medical Microbiology, Alberta Precision Laboratories (including former <i>DynaLIFE</i> Medical Labs)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Blood Culture Routing Changes for North and Central Zones</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective October 23, 2023, blood culture testing for rural acute care sites in the former Peace Country and David Thompson Health Regions will be transferred to the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital and Red Deer Regional Hospital, respectively.
- Transportation time from the collection site to the testing site for blood cultures is expected to improve.

### Background

- Since December 2022, blood culture testing from these regions has been centralized at the DynaLIFE Edmonton Base Laboratory. However, due to the physical distances involved from these sites, transporting specimens in a timeframe that supports clinical needs and stability requirements remains a challenge.
- This change is part of an ongoing review of laboratory services during the integration of DynaLIFE medical laboratories into APL. Changes to blood culture testing for other rural sites and other tests are currently under consideration.

### How this will impact you

- Clinical consultation support for these specimens will now be provided by the APL Regional Medical Microbiologist team. For inquiries about specific blood cultures, contact the APL Regional Medical Microbiologist On-Call at 1-825-509-0970.
- Acute care sites (hospitals) affected:
  - North Zone: Beaverlodge, Fox Creek, Fairview, Grande Cache, Grimshaw, High Prairie, Hythe, Manning, McLennan, Peace River, Spirit River, and Valleyview.
  - Central Zone: Breton, Castor, Consort, Coronation, Drayton Valley, Drumheller, Hanna, Innisfail, Lacombe, Olds, Ponoka, Rimbey, Rocky Mountain House, Stettler, Sundre, Sylvan Lake, Three Hills, Trochu, and Wetaskiwin.

### Action Required

- No changes are required.



**Questions/Concerns may be directed to**

- Dr. Byron Berenger, Provincial Microbiology Section Chief, APL, [byron.berenger@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:byron.berenger@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Dr Peet van der Walt, Associated Medical Director North Sector, DynaLIFE (now APL Community Lab Services), [peet.vanderwalt@dynalife.ca](mailto:peet.vanderwalt@dynalife.ca)

**Approved by**

- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE (now APL Community Lab Services).
- Dr. Michael Mengel, Medical Director North Sector, APL

*Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.*