



DATE:	2021 March 22
TO:	Calgary Zone: Patient Care Units and Portering Services
FROM:	Transfusion Medicine, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
RE:	Discontinuation of Plastic Bag Use for Transport of Blood Components and Products

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Effective **April 1, 2021**, Transfusion Medicine will discontinue the routine use of plastic bags for transport of blood components and products within Calgary hospital sites.

Background:

- This change is being implemented to align with the Government of Canada's plan (1,2) use plastic items.

How this will impact you:

- Blood components and products will be transported without plastic bags.
- In limited circumstances, Transfusion Medicine will place the items in paper bags or transport boxes. Paper bags are single-use only as they cannot be disinfected.

Questions/Concerns:

- Joanna McCarthy, Regional Technologist III, APL 403-944-8466 joanna.mccarthy@aplabs.ca
- Nicole Gettle, Calgary Transfusion Safety Leader, APL, 403-944-6399, Nicole.Gettle@aplabs.ca

Approved by:

- Leland Baskin, MD, FAACC, Associate Medical Director, South Sector

References:

1. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>
2. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/canadian-environmental-protection-act-registry/plastics-proposed-integrated-management-approach.html>