



Date: March 8, 2021
To: Calgary Zone: Day Medicine Units and Portering
From: Transfusion Medicine, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
Re: Discontinuation of Plastic Bag Use for Transport of Blood Products

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **March 15, 2021**, Transfusion Medicine will discontinue the use of plastic bags for transport of blood products to Day Medicine units.
- Blood products, such as IVIg, albumin, and other Immune Globulins, will be placed into re-usable baskets for transport. (Baskets must be made of a non-absorbent material that are easily disinfected).

Background:

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

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>

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