

DATE:	27 December 2023
TO:	All Healthcare Providers, All Zones
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) – Public Health Laboratory
RE:	Discontinuation of Routine Call Outs to Ordering Providers, by the Microbiologist on Call, for Newly Confirmed HIV Positive Cases

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- The Provincial Microbiologist on Call (MOC) will no longer routinely call ordering providers with confirmed HIV positive serology results.
- MOCs will continue reviewing all HIV positive serology results and will call ordering providers on a case-by-case basis.
- STI Centralized Services will continue linking new HIV positive patients to care.

Background

- The microbiologist on call (MOC) currently reviews all new HIV positive cases that are tested at the Provincial laboratories (PLNA, PLSA). The MOC subsequently calls the ordering provider to relay the result and provide guidance for further testing and referral to the HIV clinic.
- STI Centralized Services links new HIV positive patients to care. Therefore, the MOC calling ordering providers for routine HIV positive cases is redundant.

Resources available at STI centralized services for managing newly confirmed HIV positive cases

- All positive HIV results are notifiable to STI Centralized Services within 48 hours by the laboratory.
- A team of Partner Notification Nurses (PNNs), during business hours, contact the ordering provider to ensure appropriate management and follow up of patient and exposed contacts.
 - Occurs within two working days of receipt of confirmed positive HIV serology test.
 - A HIV case report is created and filed for each notified case.
- Multiple Quality Control processes exist between STI centralized services and other stakeholders.
 - Monthly notifications by the IRCC (immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada) of HIV positive immigrants/refugees who are coming into Alberta.
 - Quarterly line list reports from Alberta Health of new HIV cases that have yet to have a HIV case report filed

ProvLab Microbiologist on call duties that will NOT change

- The MOC will continue reviewing all HIV positive serology samples and will contact the ordering provider on a case by case basis (e.g. HIV positive cases that are not confirmed and in which acute HIV is suspected).



Action Required

- None

Inquiries may be directed to

- Dr. Will Stokes, HIV Medical Lead, APL: William.Stokes@aplabs.ca

Approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Provincial Medical Director, Public Health, APL
- Dr. Petra Smyczek, Provincial Medical Director STI/BBP, AHS

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.