



**Date:** January 15, 2021  
**To:** South Sector Physicians (Central and South Zone)  
**From:** Alberta Precision Laboratories  
**Re:** Lab Test Changes - Rural Covenant Health Sites

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

**Key Message:**

- Effective January 15, 2021, permanent cessation of all microbiology and endocrinology immunoassay testing will occur at the following sites:

Site	Microbiology Testing	Endocrinology Immunoassay Testing	Permanent Referral Laboratory
Banff Mineral Springs Hospital Laboratory	January 15	NA	Diagnostic & Scientific Center APL Calgary
St. Mary's Hospital Laboratory, Camrose	January 15	January 15 (TSH, FT4)	Dynalife Edmonton
St. Joseph's Hospital Laboratory, Vegreville	January 15	NA	Dynalife Edmonton

**Why this is important:**

- Change in test menu is to standardize processes within APL South and North Sector. These onsite test menus were over and above testing offered at AHS rural acute care facilities standardized in 2013.
- Opportunities for improved quality, consistency of testing and cost savings are expected through permanent referral of this lab work to hubs in Calgary and Edmonton.
- Several improvements in quality, processes, and biosafety/biosecurity are realized by referral out of microbiology to centralized laboratories that have advanced technical and human resources dedicated to microbiology in place.
- Improved accuracy and timeliness of reporting on clinically important isolates.
- Eliminates need for referral in of isolates after partial workup for identification improving reporting turnaround times.

**Action Required:**

- No action required at this time.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Keith Kirkland, South Sector Lab Director, 403-343-4841, [keith.kirland@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:keith.kirland@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Wendy Corbiere, North Sector Lab Director, 780-826-8254, [wendy.corbiere@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:wendy.corbiere@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

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