

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 April 23
<b>TO:</b>	Connect Care wave 1, 2 and 3 Prescribers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>New Connect Care Ordering Processes for COVID-19 Testing</b>

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

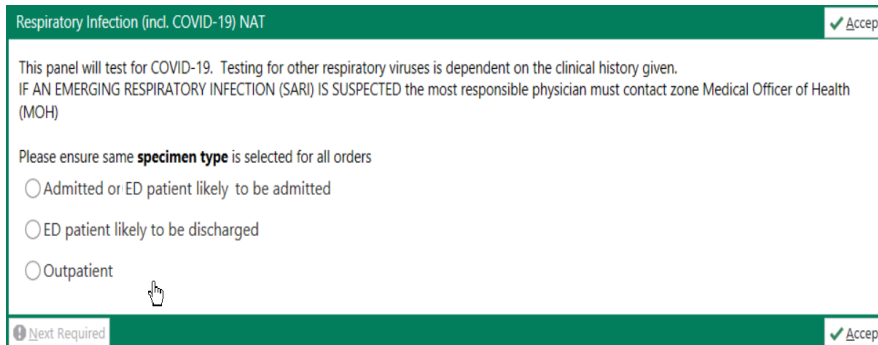
**Key Message**

- This communication applies to COVID-19 PCR (aka NAT) or ID NOW ordering processes at Connect Care live sites to allow appropriate processing and workflows to proceed.
- It DOES NOT apply to assessment centres or other sites performing the ID NOW test.

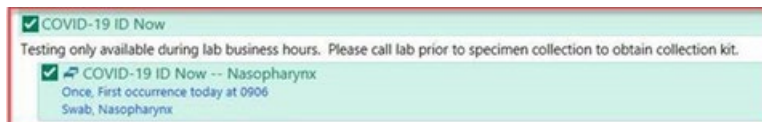
**Why this is Important:**

**Two changes will be in effect April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**

1. The decision tree when ordering the **Respiratory Infection (inc. COVID-19) NAT** smart group will now appear as below. For inpatients needing testing for COVID-19 but are also being discharged or transferred to other facilities, please select “Admitted or ED patient likely to be admitted” option.



2. Only for sites with ID NOW testing currently available, it will now be an option within the Connect Care smart group under both the “Admitted or ED patient likely to be admitted” and “ED patient likely to be discharged”.



- **Impacted sites:** Beaverlodge, Fairview, Fox Creek, Grimshaw, Peace River and Manning.
- Ordering clinicians must contact the lab to receive a kit for ID NOW testing.
- ID NOW is only available during normal laboratory operating hours. Callback requests for ID NOW testing will not be accepted. Results should be available within one hour of receipt in the laboratory.



**Action Required:**

- Familiarize with the new ordering options if you place orders within Connect Care.
- If ID NOW testing is indicated and available (COVID-19 symptoms present), place an order for COVID-19 PCR and ID NOW using the smart group, inform the lab staff, and retrieve the ID NOW collection kit from the laboratory.
- There is no change in the specimen collection processes.

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

- General inquiries about the provincial Abbott ID NOW or rapid COVID-19 PCR implementation at acute care sites can be directed to: Dr. Byron Berenger, APL Medical Microbiologist at [Byron.Berenger@aplabs.ca](mailto:Byron.Berenger@aplabs.ca)
- Connect Care ordering concerns can be directed to: Dr. Susan Nahirniak, MIL, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology and APL Associate Sector Director, North Sector at [susan.nahirniak@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:susan.nahirniak@albertaprecisionlabs.ca) .

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

- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Interim Chief Medical Laboratory Officer, APL
- Dr. Raymond Lai, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Labs