

DATE:	2022 August 9
TO:	Medicine Hat Community Physicians & Clinical Staff
FROM:	Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory
RE:	Temporary Laboratory Testing Changes in Medicine Hat

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- Staffing shortages at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital laboratory have resulted in challenges in meeting the demand for routine testing volumes.
- Routine hematology CBC and ESR samples collected at the Carry Drive Patient Care Centre in Medicine Hat will be forwarded to DSC in Calgary for testing for a minimum of 4 months with ongoing assessment of the situation.

Background

- MHRH laboratory is unable to maintain consistent staffing due to vacancies, medical leave of absences, and training demands.

How this will impact you

- Tests sent to DSC will have increased turn around time due to transportation. Please advise patients accordingly should test results be required within a specific timeframe.
- No change to ordering.
- Results will not be visible in Meditech, however all other reporting mechanisms will continue (i.e. paper, POSP, Netcare).

Effective

- August 15th, 2022

Questions/ Concerns

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Approved by

- Dr. Spencer Paulson, Regional Laboratory Medicine Site Chief, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital