

<b>DATE:</b>	2022 February 22
<b>TO:</b>	South Zone Public Health, Emergency Operations Centre, Assessment Centres, Healthcare Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Public Health Laboratory and South Zone Laboratories
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Testing Location Change for South Zone Assessment Centre COVID-19 Samples</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective February 15, 2022, COVID-19 samples collected at South Zone Assessment Centres and COVID-only outbreak samples will be tested at Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) in Calgary. Testing will no longer be performed at the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) site in Lethbridge.
- The NML worked with public health laboratories nation-wide, including the APL-Public Health Laboratory, to provide surge testing capacity for COVID-19 during peak testing waves. With the current lower testing volumes, the surge capacity program is being discontinued.

### Actions Required

- Samples will be routed to the appropriate testing site by the Laboratory. No further action is required.
- Results will continue to be available on Netcare. All downstream reporting and notification processes remain unchanged.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Dr. Wilson Chan, Medical Microbiologist, 403-770-3338, [wilson.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:wilson.chan@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)
- Tamara Trotter, Director, 403-388-5267, [tamara.trotter@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:tamara.trotter@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical Scientific Director, Public Health, APL
- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director, APL-South Sector