

DATE:	2021 July 16
TO:	South Zone Public Health, Emergency Operations Centre, Assessment Centres, Healthcare Providers
FROM:	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) Public Health Laboratory and South Zone Laboratories
RE:	Testing Location Change for South Zone Assessment Centre COVID-19 Samples

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Key Message

- Effective **July 19, 2021**, COVID-19 samples collected at South Zone Assessment Centres 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 low testing volumes, APL no longer requires surge capacity.

Why this is important

- As COVID-19 testing volumes in Alberta continue to decrease, the province is moving into a state of readiness and recovery.

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
- Tamara Trotter, Director, 403-388-5267, 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