

Date: July 15 2019
To: Northeast Community Health Centre, Strathcona Community Hospital
From: Alberta Public Laboratories (APL)
Re: Change in location for performance of CSF and Fluid Cell Counts at NEC and SPK
(Northeast Community Health Centre, Strathcona Community Hospital)

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Key Message:

- Effective July 22, 2019 CSF and Fluid Cell Count testing changes will occur at Northeast Community Health Centre and Strathcona Community Hospital. These tests will now be referred to urban laboratories in Edmonton following established patterns at other Suburban rural sites

Why this is important:

- A review of CSF and Fluid testing in Suburban and rural labs shows very low volumes. It is difficult for staff to remain competent in performing analysis of tests with low volumes.

Action Required:

- CSF cell counts- contact the lab STAT since the specimen must be referred out and have testing completed within four (4) hours (to ensure specimen integrity).
- Other fluid cell counts – routine and STAT samples will be sent to an alternate lab as per regular referral patterns.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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