



Date: October 19, 2020
To: Edmonton, Central and North Zones
From: Genetics and Genomics
Re: DNA Storage Policy – Molecular Genetics North Sector

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Due to increased demands related to the ongoing COVID pandemic, Molecular Genetics Laboratory (MGL) North is no longer able to extract and store DNA on specimens received without a test ordered. Exception will be made for circumstances where a specimen cannot be collected in the future (e.g. terminally ill, deceased, pre-transplant, etc.), or a when a specimen can only be collected with great difficulty (e.g. collection under sedation).

Why this is important:

- DNA extraction and storage for testing at a later date (ie. banking) will no longer be accommodated without clear rationale provided. Specimens received without a test ordered will be discarded unless sufficient rationale is provided for the request.

Action Required:

- When submitting a request for DNA storage please specify the rationale for why an exception is required. If you are unsure if your request will be accepted, please contact the G&G North Genetic Counsellors prior to collecting the specimen.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- G&G North Genetic Counsellors: 780-407-1015
- Dr. Sherry Taylor, Program Medical Lead, and Joint Lab Head: sherry.taylor@aplabs.ca
- Dr. Stacy Hume, Joint Lab Head, Molecular Genetics, G&G North: stacey.hume@aplabs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

- Dr. Dennis Bulman, Medical/Scientific Director, Genetics and Genomics, APL
- Dr. Carolyn O'Hara, Chief Medical Laboratory Officer (Interim), APL