

<b>DATE:</b>	April 7, 2020
<b>TO:</b>	All Zone Emergency Operations Centres, all Hospital Sites
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Essential Test Menu Activated for Adult and Pediatric Autopsies</b>

## Key Messages:

To appropriately prepare and allocate resources during the current provincial public health emergency, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) will **activate the Essential Test Menu for adult and pediatric autopsies**. This means that autopsies will only be conducted if they are COVID-19 pandemic-related, and/or the medical reason for autopsy has significant clinical impact.

Perinatal autopsies are not affected by this and will continue as per standard of care.

If a case is an essential adult/pediatric autopsy, the breadth and scope of the autopsy is left to the pathologist's discretion to address the most relevant clinical questions.

## Background:

Alberta declared a public health emergency on March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. See <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-cmoh-public-health-emergency-declaration.pdf>

The Alberta Health Services Communicable Disease Emergency Response Plan (CDERP) includes the latest updates from APL under Section 5.0 Medical Management, Function 5.03 Laboratory. Appendix G refers to Autopsies. The APL CDERP is available on Insite here: [https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/PPPH-EDM/CDC\\_resp/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/teams/PPPH-EDM/CDC\\_resp/TEST/ALBERTA%20PRECISION%20LABORATORIES.docx&action=default](https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/PPPH-EDM/CDC_resp/layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/teams/PPPH-EDM/CDC_resp/TEST/ALBERTA%20PRECISION%20LABORATORIES.docx&action=default)

## Actions:

Adult and pediatric autopsy will be restricted to essential autopsies where the medical reason for autopsy has significant clinical implications. Where indicated and feasible, the most responsible care provider and the pathologist will discuss the case and come to a joint decision about whether a particular case is an essential autopsy or not.

The process for requesting autopsies is unchanged. Request forms can be downloaded from Insite. Please provide contact information for the requesting most responsible care provider.

If a case is an essential adult/pediatric autopsy, the breadth and scope of the autopsy is left to the pathologist's discretion to address the most relevant clinical questions.

## Authorized by:

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