



Date: October 5, 2020
To: Edmonton, North, and Central Zones
From: Alberta Precision Laboratories
Re: Fibroblast Cultures for Genetic Testing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective immediately, the culturing of fibroblasts which are required for genetic testing in the Edmonton, North and Central Zones will be performed by the Molecular Pathology Laboratory North located at the University of Alberta Hospital.

This includes fibroblast cultures needed for:

- Biochemical genetic assays
 - Germline confirmation of variants identified on somatic cancer panels.
 - Genetic tests that are sent to external laboratories
- This **DOES NOT** include fibroblast cultures needed to assess mosaicism for abnormalities of chromosome number or chromosome structure. Culturing for these specimens will continue to be performed by the Cytogenetics North laboratory.

Why this is important:

- To ensure the appropriate collection and transport procedures of samples for fibroblast cultures is used.

Action Required:

- For instructions on how to collect and transport specimens contact:
 - Molecular Pathology Laboratory North call (780) 407-2895.
 - Cytogenetics Laboratory North call (780) 407-1542.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Sherry Taylor, Program Medical Lead, Genetics and Genomics North (sherry.taylor@aplabs.ca)
- Dr. Cheryl Mather, Medical Lead, Molecular Pathology Laboratory North (cheryl.mather@aplabs.ca)

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

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