

April 30, 2020

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## Rural AHS sites move to appointment-only lab collections

EDMONTON – Rural hospitals and urgent care facilities are moving to appointment-only lab work for outpatients starting Monday to control traffic in and out of healthcare facilities.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is implementing this temporary change in an effort to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in these facilities and to ensure laboratory resources remain available for people who need them most.

The change will not affect lab work for hospital inpatients, and all patients requiring laboratory tests will continue to receive them.

AHS is limiting outpatient activity at acute care and urgent care facilities as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, many rural AHS facilities offer the only laboratory services in the community. Some waiting areas in these rural lab collection sites are small and not appropriate for maintaining appropriate physical distancing. Appointment-only lab work will improve safety for rural patients at high risk for severe illness, such as those with compromised immune systems.

Patients are encouraged to discuss the urgency of their lab work with their physician before booking appointments.

Appointments can be made by providers or patients by phone or online.

Please find attached a full list of rural sites moving to appointment-only lab work, as well as telephone and online appointment booking options.

AHS and its wholly owned subsidiary, Alberta Precision Laboratories, are informing physicians and other ordering providers about these service changes.

Alberta Health Services is the provincial health authority responsible for planning and delivering health supports and services for more than four million adults and children living in Alberta. Its mission is to provide a patient-focused, quality health system that is accessible and sustainable for all Albertans.

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**For media inquiries, contact:**

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**Book by phone: 1.833.572.0577 Book online: <https://aplappointments.ca/>**

Athabasca Healthcare Centre	Grande Cache Community Health Complex	Provost Health Centre
Barrhead Healthcare Centre	Grimshaw & District Community Health Centre	Raymond Health Centre
Bassano Health Centre	Hanna Health Centre	Redwater Health Centre
Bashaw Health Centre	Hardisty Health Centre	Rimbey Community Health Centre
Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital	High Prairie Health Complex	Rocky Mountain House Health Centre
Bonnyville Healthcare Centre	Hinton Healthcare Centre	Slave Lake Healthcare Centre
Bow Island Health Centre	Innisfail Health Centre	George McDougall - Smoky Lake Healthcare Centre
Boyle Healthcare Centre	Seton - Jasper Healthcare Centre	Spirit River - Central Peace Health Complex
Cardston Health Centre	Killam Health Care Centre	St. Therese - St. Paul Healthcare Centre
Castor Our Lady of the Rosary Hospital	William J. Cadzow - Lac La Biche Healthcare Centre	Stettler Hospital and Care Centre
Coaldale Health Centre	Lacombe Community Health Centre	Sundre Healthcare Centre
Cold Lake Healthcare Centre	Lamont Health Care Centre	Swan Hills Healthcare Centre
Consort Hospital and Care Centre	Leduc Community Hospital	Sylvan Lake Community Health Centre
Coronation Hospital and Care Centre	Manning Community Health Centre	Taber Health Centre
Crowsnest Pass Health Centre	Mayerthorpe Healthcare Centre	Three Hills Health Centre
Daysland Health Centre	Sacred Heart Community Health Centre	Tofield Health Centre
Devon General Hospital	Milk River Health Centre	Two Hills Health Centre
Drayton Valley Community Health Centre	Morinville Clinic	Valleyview Health Centre
Drumheller Health Centre	Olds Hospital and Care Centre	Vegreville - St. Joseph's General Hospital
Edson Healthcare Centre	Onoway Community Health Services	Vermilion Health Centre
Elk Point Healthcare Centre	Oyen - Big Country Hospital	Viking Health Centre
Fairview Health Complex	Peace River Community Health Centre	Wabasca / Desmarais Health Care Centre
Fort Macleod Health Centre	Picture Butte - Piyami Health Centre	Wainwright Health Centre
Fox Creek Healthcare Centre	Pincher Creek Health Centre	Westlock Healthcare Centre
Gibbons Health Unit	Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre	Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre
		Whitecourt Healthcare Centre

**Book by phone: 1.877.868.6848 Book online: <http://www.calgarylabservices.com/>**

Banff Mineral Springs Hospital	High River Hospital
Black Diamond Oilfields General Hospital	Okotoks Health and Wellness Centre
Canmore General Hospital	Strathmore District Health Services
Claresholm General Hospital	Vulcan Health Centre
Didsbury District Health Services	

**Sites with nearby DynaLife collection locations will be temporarily closed to outpatient collections; patients will be directed to the nearby DynaLIFE location**

**Book by phone: 1.877.702.4486 Book online: <https://booking.dynalifedx.com/>**

Camrose St. Mary's Hospital – Collection will be performed at Camrose DynaLife Laboratory
Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital – Collection will be performed at Fort Saskatchewan DynaLife Laboratory
Stony Plain WestView Health Centre – Collection will be performed at Spruce Grove, Devon, or Leduc DynaLife Laboratory