

COVID-19

INFORMATION UPDATE



June 5, 2020

To: All IH Physicians, Clinical Leads
From: Iwona Szczepanski, IH EOC Laboratory
Dr. Launny Lowden, Interim Medical Director, IH Laboratories
Re: Resumption of Suspended Laboratory Testing

Over the last several months, several areas of laboratory testing were suspended to support the COVID-19 pandemic response and ensure capacity for COVID-19 testing.

Testing will resume for these areas as follows:

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Testing:

- HCV testing at the BCCDC (serology, viral load, and genotype) was previously suspended to allow a rapid increase in COVID-19 testing capacity.
- With COVID-19 testing now established, HCV testing will resume effective immediately.

Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT):

- On June 8, 2020, LifeLabs will restart FIT testing in conjunction with the BC Cancer Colon Cancer Screening Program, and will accept, test, and report results on samples arriving from referring labs throughout B.C.
- Interior Health will also resume providing FIT kits for this important testing starting June 8, 2020.

Out of Province/Out of Country (OOP/OOC) Laboratory and Genetic Testing:

- As of May 11, 2020, the BC Association for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (BCAPLM) OOP/OOC program is accepting and processing non-urgent funding applications. New funding approvals will have a three-month expiry date.
- The COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted a patient's ability to access a health authority laboratory, resulting in a delay in specimen collection and an expired funding approval. Funding approvals which expired after March 1, 2020 will have their approval extended to August 31, 2020 until further notice.
- Further updates will be posted to the BCAPLM website at <http://www.bcaplm.ca> as required.