

Date:	May 13, 2020
To:	All Northern Health Staff and physicians
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine, Northern Lead Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director Diagnostic Services
Cc	The COO's The Medical Directors
Re:	Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) – Temporary Worker from Quebec

Effective immediately, Northern Health Laboratories will accept the Quebec health card information and process the sample without charging any upfront fees to the patient.

It has come to the attention of Northern Health that there are residents from Quebec temporarily working in northern BC. British Columbia does not have a reciprocal agreement with Quebec for covering healthcare costs. There are concerns that this creates barriers and unnecessary testing delays in COVID-19 screening, risking the delayed response to a possible outbreak. In the event a resident of Quebec requires COVID-19 screening within Northern Health, there is a new directive to waive the fee and process testing without delay.

For further information or questions please contact Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director of Diagnostic Services at Lisette.vienneau@northernhealth.ca