

Date:	April 17, 2020
To:	NH Medical Staff, NH Leadership
From:	<p>Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine Dr. Dietrich Furstenburg, NI Rural Medical Director, Northern Health Kara Hunter, Interim Nurse Practitioner Lead Helen Bourque, Executive Lead, Primary Health Care, Primary Health Care Raina Fumerton, Interim Chief Medical Health Officer</p>
Cc:	<p>NH Chief Operating Officers: Penny Anguish (NI), Ciro Panessa (NW), Angela De Smit (NE) Medical Directors: Dr. Shannon Douglas (NI Lakes/Omineca), Dr. Jaco Fourie (NW), Dr. Dietrich Furstenburg (NI Rural), Dr. Tony Preston (PG), Dr. Becky Temple (NE) NHEOC</p>
Re:	Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) – BC CDC UPDATED TESTING GUIDELINES

BC CDC GUIDELINES:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/lab-testing>

COVID-19 testing criteria has changed. **Testing should be focused on individuals for whom the results will change the clinical care they receive or the public health management of their case.**

TESTING

At this time, any provider can order a test for COVID-19 based on their clinical judgment.

Broadly, testing is recommended for groups that are more vulnerable to complications due to COVID-19, or people who care for these vulnerable people.

PRIORITY GROUPS

People with **NEW RESPIRATORY** or **GASTRO-INTESTINAL** symptoms who are:

- Residents and staff of long term care facilities
- Patients requiring hospitalization, or likely to be hospitalized including pregnant individuals in their 3rd trimester, patients on hemodialysis, or cancer patients receiving radiation or chemotherapy.
- Part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak.

Individuals with **FEVER and a NEW (OR WORSENING) COUGH or SHORTNESS OF BREATH** who are:

- Health Care Workers
- Residents of remote, isolated or Indigenous communities

Northern Health defines isolated & remote communities as:

Any Resident of a; First Nations Community OR Level One NH Community OR a community which is at least 1 hour or 100 kilometers away from a hospital. Please see attached list of First Nations Communities and Level 1 NH Sites.

- People living and working in congregate settings such as work-camps, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, assisted living and seniors' residences
- People who are homeless or have unstable housing
- Essential service providers (e.g. first responders)
- Returning travellers identified at a point of entry to Canada.

TESTING IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PATIENTS WITH NO SYMPTOMS

Full list of level 1 communities and First Nations communities below.

All level 1 and First Nations Communities

Level 1 communities:

- Atlin
- Dease Lake
- Granisle
- Southside
- Stewart
- Tumbler Ridge
- Valemount

List of Northern First Nations communities.

Northeast	North Central	Northwest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueberry River First Nations • Doig River First Nations • Fort Nelson First Nations • Halfway River First Nations • Saulneau First Nations • Tsaa Tse K’Nai First Nation (Prophet River First Nations) • West Moberly Lake First Nations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burns Lake Band • Cheslatta Carrier Nations • Kwadacha Nations • Lake Babine Nations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old Fort 2. Fort Babine 3. Tachet 4. Woyenne 5. Pinkut Lake/Donalds Landing • Lheidli T’enneh • McLeod Lake • Nadleh Whuten • Nak’azdli Band • Nazko • Nee-Tahi-Buhn Band • Saik’uz First Nations • Skin Tyee Nations • Stelat’en First Nations • Takla Lake First Nations • Tl’azt’en Nations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tache 2. Binche 3. Dzitl’ainli 4. K’uzche • Tsay Keh Dene • Wet’suwet’en First Nations • Yekooche <p>Belong to an Interior Regional Hub:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ?Esdilagh Indian Band • Lhoosk’uz Dene Government (Kluskus) • Lhatko Dene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daylu Dena Council² • Dease River First Nation³ • Gingolx • Gitanmaax • Gitanyow • Gitga’at Nation • Gitlaxt’aamiks • Gitsegukla • Gitwangak • Gitwinksihkw • Gitxaala Nation • Hagwilget Village • Haisla Nation • Iskut • Kispiox • Kitselas Band Council • Kitsumkalum Band • Laxgalt’sap • Lax Kw’alaams First Nations • Metlakatla Indian Band • Moricetown • Old Massett Village Council • Sik-e-dakh Village • Skidegate Band • Tahltan Nation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dease Lake Band • Taku River Tlingit First Nations