

Date	May 22, 2020
To	Northern Health Operational Leadership and Physicians
From	Penny Anguish, NI COO & NH EOC Operational Lead Dr Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine
CC	Angela De Smit, NE COO; Ciro Panessa, NW COO; Northern Health Medical Directors; NH EOC
Re	Restart of Non-Urgent Diagnostic Services – Laboratory, Medical Imaging and Cardiac Services

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, BC Health Authorities have been directed to start planning and implementing a gradual return to non-urgent and elective services within a “new normal” approach as outlined in the [BC's Restart Plan](#).

Prior to restarting services, site leaders must coordinate safety plan completion through use of the pandemic recovery toolkit, inclusive of risk assessment and formal safety plan. This toolkit will be released Monday May 25, 2020 as per the recent [pandemic recovery update](#). Once the site safety plan is completed, leaders are to review plans with staff, post safety plans at the work site and then may proceed with service restart. This plan is an [Order of the Provincial Health Officer](#) and a requirement that may be requested by WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers in future workplace inspections.

With the above safety plan in hand, and to support a gradual restart, this memo includes links to general plans as regional guidance for staged restart of non-urgent services in:

- [Outpatient Laboratory Services](#)
- [Outpatient Medical Imaging](#)
- [Outpatient Cardiac Services and Inter-hospital Transfer Criteria for Northern Health Cardiac Patients](#)

The following requirements are to guide the restart of non-urgent services:

1. Adherence to all provincial guidelines and directives as these become available
2. Maintenance of restrictive access to all facilities with application of standardized patient risk screening/assessment procedures and applicable safety plan requirements
3. Maintain strict adherence to physical distancing or PPE usage in clinical areas through modified scheduling and workflows
4. Staged implementation with flexibility to reduce services should key triggers be met (e.g. critical shortage of PPE, resurgence in COVID-19 hospitalization)
5. Align services with restart plans of other local services

All diagnostic services managers are to communicate and work with their local senior operational leader on the planning and gradual return of services to ensure alignment with local related restart planning.

For more information, contact Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director, Diagnostic Services and Medical Leads for Laboratory, Drs. Kamran Azar and Justin Lo; or for Medical Imaging, Drs. Saqba Farooq, Shehab Elshazy and Elliot Rapp

For more information on Cardiac Services, Dr. Firas Mansour, Medical Lead, NH Cardiac Care Yaser Ahmed, Regional Lead-Cardiac & Stroke Yaser.Ahmed@northernhealth.ca