
MEMO

Date:	June 25, 2020
To:	All Medical Staff and Northern Health Clinical Leadership
From:	Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director of Diagnostic Services Dr. Kamran Azar, NH Lab Medical Lead
Re:	Covid-19: Overwrapping and Sealing of Blood Products

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the National Advisory Committee (NAC) has raised concerns about the possibility of blood products and transport containers being vectors for transmission of infectious diseases.

Transfusion Medicine Services (TMS) throughout Northern Health have taken a NAC-recommended, proactive approach by enhancing the dispensation procedure with overwrapping and sealing of blood products to prevent the potential spread of infection.

NAC recommends the following:

- Take only one unit of blood component or one vial of plasma protein product at a time into a patient's room and only prior to transfusion administration.
- Place all blood products, used or unused, in a clean biohazard bag prior to return to the TMS department.
- Communicate clearly to lab staff if the blood product was exposed to a patient with an infectious disease.

Note: The enhanced overwrap procedure will not be available (afterhours) when the laboratory is closed and/or Technologist not present and when clinical staff have access to sign out blood products.

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