

Date:	September 11, 2020
To:	All Northern Health Staff and Physicians
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine, Northern Lead
Cc	Chief Operating Officers Medical Directors
Re:	Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) – COVID-19 In-House Testing Update **NH experiencing low levels of Covid Reagents

Northern Health is experiencing low levels of Covid reagents for the GenXpert machines due to delays in reagent delivery along with provincial shortages.

Effective immediately and until further notice, In-house testing will be limited to HOSP and LTC patient groups only.

All other patient groups will be tested at Life Labs.

Code	Criteria/Category
	Continue to mark all requisitions and samples with one of the following patient groups in RED.
HOSP	Hospitalized Symptomatic pregnant women in their 3 rd trimester Renal Patients Cancer Patients receiving treatment Emergency department with intent to admit
LTC	Resident of a long term care facility
OBK	Outbreaks, clusters or case contacts
HCW1	Health care worker – direct patient care
HCW2	Health care worker – indirect patient care
CMM	Community outpatients Primary Care Clinic or COVID-19 Collection Clinic Emergency Department (non-admitted) COVID-19 Surveillance
FN-CMM	First Nation Specific Locations due to remoteness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fort St James area communities: Takla Lake, Yekooche, Tl'azt'en, Nak'azd'li • Finlay Hub area communities: Kwadacha, and Tsay Keh Dene • Fort Nelson • Coastal Tsimshian: Gitgaat, Kitkatla, Lax Kwalaams, and Metlakatla • Tahltan (Telegraph Creek) and Iskut
CGT	People living in congregate settings such as work-camps, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, assisted living and seniors' residences.
TRE	Tree Planters

Other urgent requests for testing can be discussed with a pathologist on a case-by-case basis.

For further information or questions, please contact the medical leads Dr. Randall Dumont and/or Dr. Kamran Azar through Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director of Diagnostic Services at Lisette.vienneau@northernhealth.ca