

Date:	June 8, 2020
To:	All Health Care Providers
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine, Northern Lead Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director Diagnostic Services
Cc	Dr. K. Heydarzadeh-Azar, Medical Lead Laboratory Services Dr. Abu Hamour, Medical Lead HIV and Hepatitis C Care Jessica Place, Executive Lead Chronic Diseases Chief Technologists - NH Laboratories
Re:	Outpatient Hepatitis C testing to resume

In April, several types of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) tests were suspended as COVID-19 testing volumes were increasing: HCV serology for screening, HCV viral load (RNA test), and HCV genotype.

The BCCDC Public Health Laboratory (PHL) performs HCV testing for most patients in the province. The decision to suspend testing was made by the Medical Director of PHL, in consultation with the Provincial Health Officer and Chief Medical Health Officers, to allow skilled laboratory workers to be redeployed to support COVID-19 testing.

COVID-19 testing capacity at PHL has increased and test volumes have decreased. As a result, the PHL is now ready to resume all HCV testing.

Effective immediately, Northern Health Laboratories will resume the collection of outpatient Hepatitis C samples.

Patients with a current laboratory requisition (not older than 12 months) are invited to contact their local laboratory to arrange to have their sample collected.

Patients with an expired laboratory requisition (older than 12 months) must contact their health care provider to request a new requisition.

Specific lab outpatient collection information/instruction is under each [lab location](#) on Northern Health's public website.

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