



Laboratory Services

Labrador-Grenfell Health

To: All Physicians and Nurse Practitioners, LGH

From: Dr. Gabe Woollam, VP of Medical Services

Date: March 27th, 2020

RE: Outpatient Blood Collection Services

Dear Colleagues,

Please pay close attention to the direction given below for your URGENT blood test requests which will be effective March 30th, 2020. The main objective is to reduce unnecessary risks to patients and staff through limiting blood collection activities.

The **RATIONALE** on this issue is:

- Patients will be in crowded waiting rooms, at less than recommended two-meter distance.
- Blood collection is a high-risk activity for COVID-19 transmission since the distance between patient and phlebotomist is less than one foot.
- Personal protective equipment is in short supply.

ALL of these **INCREASE** the risk to patients, those they encounter, and the community at large.

Kindly keep these potential risks in mind BEFORE ordering lab tests.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Routine blood work will not be completed, except for transplant, chemotherapy, therapeutic drug monitoring and INR patients who can call the laboratory/receptionist to schedule an appointment.
2. Outpatient blood collection will occur by appointment only. Patients must be directed to call the laboratory/receptionist to book an appointment.

Hospital	Location	Phone Number
Curtis Memorial Hospital	St. Anthony	709-454-3333 ext. 7504
Labrador Health Centre	Happy Valley Goose Bay	709-897-2309
Labrador West Health Centre	Labrador City	709-285-8312
Strait of Belle Isle	Flower's Cove	709-456-2401 ext. 6221
White Bay Central	Roddickton	709-457-2215 ext. 242
Labrador South Health Centre	Forteau	709-931-2450

3. All urgent outpatient laboratory test orders **MUST** be indicated on a **Laboratory Test Special Authorization Form** (LTSA form; Approval not required), with clearly typewritten or handwritten text, and the rationale for the urgent request clearly indicated.
4. Requisitions or orders placed in order entry prior to March 16th, 2020 will **NOT** be considered urgent.

Thank you for understanding and your kind cooperation,

Dr. Gabe Woollam
VP of Medical Services