

## Further information on pharmacy-based asymptomatic COVID-19 testing program

### PROGRAM UPDATES

#### Online pharmacy locator added to the AHS Online COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool for Albertans

Pharmacies participating in the Pharmacy Based Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing program will now be able to have their Google Map location integrated into the AHS Online COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool for individuals who screen as asymptomatic.

Patients will be presented with options for sites offering asymptomatic testing, including pharmacies within a 75-kilometre radius. The listing will also provide a Google Map of the pharmacy locations offering asymptomatic testing.

Pharmacies wishing to have their information included in the online locator tool should complete the Online Pharmacy Locator Tool—Site Information form posted on the online pharmacy providers resources section available at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php> and return it by email to the addresses indicated. The store location information will then be uploaded to the online pharmacy locator tool with the next update. Updates are anticipated to occur every few days.

This functionality is additional to the list of sites currently posted and updated weekly on the Alberta Blue Cross website.

#### Results notification to patients to be expanded to include SMS text or telephone auto-dialer

Starting on September 11, 2020, patients will be asked to provide consent for either the AHS auto-dialer to leave an automated message or an SMS text notification system, both of which will send the results of the COVID-19 throat swab test as soon as the lab analysis is completed directly to the phone number provided.

This new option will be included on the updated zone-specific requisition form and updated consent form which have been available at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php> for pharmacies to download and print off for use as of September 11, 2020. Pharmacies should be aware of the importance to use the correct requisition form for their zone.

Pharmacists will also continue to communicate all test results directly to clients as per standards of practice.

All test results are accessible through NETCARE. Clients may also be advised that they can quickly access their own test results by signing up for MyHealth Records online at [myhealth.alberta.ca/myhealthrecords](https://myhealth.alberta.ca/myhealthrecords).

... continued from previous page

## Updates to program document and FAQ document

All pharmacists participating in the Pharmacy Based COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing program should be aware of and review the updates to the program document and FAQ document which reflect the above changes but also include new critical information compiled from pharmacists' questions. The updated documents have been available at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php>.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19 done in advance

Pharmacists may conduct the assessment to screen for asymptomatic testing in advance of the patient presenting to the pharmacy, for example by phone. However, the pharmacist must validate that the patient remains asymptomatic when they present to the pharmacy for testing to be conducted. In this scenario only one claim for Assessment to Screen for Asymptomatic Testing for COVID-19 is eligible which is on the day that the testing is done.

### Enrolment checklist

The program enrolment checklist is for the pharmacies internal use to ensure that all the steps are complete for successful enrolment into the program and does not need to be submitted to APL.

Documents which must be sent to APL for successful enrolment are the APL Specimen Collection Kit Order form and the APL Health Care Provider Information form

### Sample drop-off

- Samples will be rejected and testing not performed on the sample if it is
  - unlabeled (incomplete information on the sample label);
  - mislabeled (mismatch between patient sample and information on the requisition);
  - with a requisition missing key information (such as full patient name, initials are NOT accepted); or
  - with a sample that has leaked due to insecure capping of the sample vial.
- Samples are NOT to be dropped off at any acute/urgent care centre.
  - o Only in circumstances where geographically an acute/urgent care centre is the only option will samples be accepted.
- Samples are to be dropped off at Patient Collection Centres (PCC).
- Pharmacy staff are responsible for arranging for transport of samples to a lab for processing.
- Questions about sample drop-off can be directed to Alberta Precision Labs (APL) at 403-770-3438.

### When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area) • 403-294-4041 (Calgary and area) • 1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area) • FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. Visit [ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php](https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

