



**MEMORANDUM
NOTE DE SERVICE**

TO Community Health Nurses,
À Pamela Miller, Acting Director of Nursing,
Nicole Liboiron, Acting Director of Nursing

DATE
October 21, 2020

FROM Dr. Wadieh Yacoub, FNIHB Senior Medical
DE Officer of Health

Dr. Chris Sarin, FNIHB Deputy Medical
Officer of Health

SUBJECT: Change in COVID-19 Testing Criteria

Alberta Health announced a change in the testing criteria for COVID-19. Individuals without symptoms who do NOT have a known COVID-19 exposure should not be tested for COVID-19.

As of October 20, 2020 COVID-19 testing is only available for Albertans:

- **with COVID-19 symptoms**
- **who are a close contact of a confirmed case (whether the contact has symptoms or not)**
- **who are linked to an outbreak (whether the individual has symptoms or not).**

This new testing criteria will reduce testing wait times and speed up access to results. Due to the quick change in testing criteria, asymptomatic individuals with tests that were already booked between now and November 4, 2020 can still be tested.

It is important to identify and manage individuals with COVID-19 infection quickly. FNIHB MOHs will continue to work with communities with active COVID-19 cases to ensure testing strategies consider specific local risks and current provincial testing criteria. **Any COVID-19 testing done under the FNIHB MOH's authority that falls outside of the Alberta Health testing criteria will need to be planned in advance and reviewed by a FNIHB MOH.** Communities with unique situations which require consideration should contact the CDC or Nursing Teams so the request can be discussed and reviewed with the FNIHB MOHs.