

# COVID-19

January 26, 2021

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

## Updates to COVID-19 swabbing processes for Long-term Care, Assisted Living and Independent Living, effective immediately

### What is happening?

- The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has identified gaps and concerns regarding swabs coming from long-term care (LTC), assisted living (AL) and independent living (IL) that have caused delays in processing swabs and invalid swabs being returned to the sites.
- COVID-19 has increased the volume of swabs coming through Fraser Health labs from LTC and AL, when historically Fraser Health labs have not been involved.
- These updates, in consultation with Fraser Health labs, will help ensure COVID-19 swabs coming from LTC, AL, and IL settings are valid and processed as soon as possible (within 48 hours of collection), enabling timely and appropriate response measures to be taken.

### What are the impacts of the change?

Please review and follow these updated processes, effective immediately:

1. **REVISED:** Sample BCCDC Virology Requisition Forms with key information that must be completed when sending a COVID-19 swab specimen can be found in the [COVID-19 Long-Term Care, Assisted Living COVID-19 Resource Toolkit](#)
  - Note: There are now three sample requisition forms: 1) Non-Outbreak (Residents), 2) Outbreak or Point Prevalence Testing (Residents), and 3) Point Prevalence Testing (Staff).
2. **NEW:** Suspect COVID-19 (Non-Outbreak) Swabbing Checklist: Includes key information to prepare LTC and AL providers for COVID-19 specimen collection. Note: This does not apply to IL providers as Home Health nurses collect COVID-19 specimens.
3. **NEW:** All COVID-19 specimens from LTC, AL, IL settings will be transported directly to:  
Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre  
PLMS COVID-19 Processing site  
999 Canada Place  
Exhibition Hall C  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3T4
4. **EDUCATION:** One-hour webinars will be offered to review the updated resources, including a review of saline gargle as an option in extraordinary circumstances. Please attend one of the following webinars (invitations will be sent out to all LTC, AL, IL providers):

Monday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	1100-1200
Wednesday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1300-1400
Thursday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>	1300-1400

### For more information

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