



**MEMORANDUM  
NOTE DE SERVICE**

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

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

**Dr. Chris Sarin, FNIHB Deputy Medical**  
**Officer of Health**

Date  
**April 6, 2020**

**SUBJECT: FNIHB MOH Additional COVID-19 Testing Criterion**

Alberta Health provides guidance on the management of COVID-19 in the *Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines: Coronavirus – COVID-19* document.

Under the Public Health Act, nurses can test for COVID-19 under the Medical Officer of Health's (MOH) authority, if:

- the nurse is practicing within scope of practice and role
- the patient meets the current screening criteria in the disease management guidelines.

While to date, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a First Nation community in Alberta, FNIHB recognizes the importance of increasing testing efforts for early detection of the presence of COVID-19 in the communities.

**Effective immediately, the FNIHB MOHs recommend the following additional COVID-19 testing criterion:**

The testing of ***symptomatic*** individuals who reside in a First Nation community in Alberta with new onset, or exacerbation of chronic, of one or more of the following symptoms:

- fever
- cough
- runny nose
- sore throat,
- shortness of breath
- diarrhea (in congregate living such as supportive living or long term care facility)

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Asymptomatic individuals do **not** meet the criteria to be tested under this directive.

For nurses testing under the COVID-19 testing criteria directive, Dr. Wadieh Yacoub's name and physician #2952 must be put on the lab requisition as the ordering physician. Nurses should monitor Netcare for COVID-19 test results. As with other communicable diseases, community health nurses will be notified of positive results by the regional CDC Team.

The number of tests completed at each health centre must be tracked and will be collected regularly.

It is important to ensure that testing be undertaken in a safe clinical environment with competent nurses. FNIHB MOHs, CDC Team, and Nursing Team are available to support communities wanting to expand their early detection efforts.

Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work during this pandemic response. We look forward to our ongoing partnership.