



March 16, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Re: Rapid Point of Care Testing for COVID-19 in British Columbia

Further to my letter dated June 17, 2020, regarding private PCR testing for COVID-19 in British Columbia, I am writing to confirm that:

1. Any site, laboratory, or company that charges for point of care (POC) testing for COVID-19 is required to receive full independent accreditation through the Diagnostic Accreditation Program administered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. This applies to sites using gold standard PCR testing and testing performed by rapid POC tests, including Abbot Panbio, Abbot ID Now, Spartan Cube, BD Veritor and other rapid POC tests that may receive Health Canada approval.
2. Any site, laboratory, or company that performs Health Canada approved rapid POC testing for COVID-19 at no cost to the client being tested may instead of having DAP accreditation, follow the public health quality assurance process from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Provincial Health Laboratory. Individual sites do not require independent accreditation through the Diagnostic Accreditation Program. BCCDC will support testing, training, oversight, quality standards, processes, quality control and proficiency testing requirements and ensure that critical quality processes are in place and tracked.

Under the Public Health Act, any positive test result must be reported to public health and this leads to public health follow up, including contact tracing and case management. All positive test results must also be reported to BCCDC, which provides the ability to evaluate program reach and access, helps identify quality gaps (including true and false positivity rates), and supports long-term program evaluation by providing information on the yield of POC testing over time.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer