



July 30, 2021

#1204011

To whom it may concern:

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

Further to my letters dated June 17, 2020 and April 5, 2021 regarding private PCR testing for COVID-19 in British Columbia, I am writing to confirm that:

1. Any site, laboratory, or company that charges clients for symptomatic or asymptomatic point of care (POC) testing for COVID-19 is required to receive full independent accreditation through the Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP) administered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.
2. Any site, laboratory, or company that performs **asymptomatic** POC testing for screening purposes at no cost to the client is required to follow the public health quality assurance process from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Provincial Health Laboratory, if they are not DAP accredited. Individual sites do not require independent accreditation through the DAP. BCCDC will support testing, training, oversight, quality standards, processes, quality control and requirements and ensure that critical quality processes are in place and tracked. Please follow the [PHSA POC Rapid Screening Program protocols and processes \(http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-covid-19-point-of-care-screening-program\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-covid-19-point-of-care-screening-program).
3. Regulated health care providers and laboratories in BC are legally required to report positive COVID-19 POC test results to public health under the *Public Health Act* (Section 10).
4. Sites where testing does not involve regulated health care providers in BC are not legally required to report positive COVID-19 POC test results to public health; however, individuals whose POC test is positive should seek confirmatory PCR testing for diagnostic purposes and to ensure public health follow up where required.
5. In incidences where POC testing identifies clusters of positive COVID-19 cases, sites or companies are strongly encouraged to alert public health via the local medical health officer.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer