

February 25, 2019

To: All Alberta Physicians

RE: Patient notification due to possible exposure

Background

During a recent routine review of medical device reprocessing at Fairview Health Complex, it was found that the medical equipment cleaning and disinfection processes used for endoscopes at the facility may not have been adequate. These processes were in place from November 4, 2013 to January 30, 2019. This information was reported to Alberta Health Services Public Health as required under the Alberta *Public Health Act*.

Disclosure, and recommendations for follow up will be sent to affected patients following a media release on Monday Feb 25, 2019. It may be 2-3 weeks before patients receive a letter.

Patients are directed to access testing under an Epidemiological Investigation number (EI#) issued by the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health. It is important that the testing be ordered under this EI# 2019-110. Using the EI number will ensure the results of these tests are included in our patient notification review process.

Your role as physician

- 1. If the patient has received a letter with an accompanying lab requisition for testing** please ask the patient to have the blood work done as per the lab requisition. The lab results will be copied to you. Any positive or indeterminate results will be followed up with a phone call from Public Health. Any negative results will be followed up by letter to the patient.
- 2. If the patient believes that they have been affected but has not received a letter** please refer these patients to call Health Link (811) to determine if they were potentially exposed. Patients who are not part of the affected cohort may insist on testing. If you choose to test these patients, the EI number should not be used on these laboratory requisitions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Albert S. de Villiers, MB.Ch.B., M.Med. (C.H.)
Lead Medical Officer of Health, North Zone