 Department of Health Government of Nunavut		<b>Medical Directives and Delegation</b> <b>Community Health Nursing</b>	
<b>TITLE:</b>		<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>POLICY NUMBER:</b>
COVID-19 Allied Health Provider Notification of Results		Nursing Practice	07-040-00
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>REVIEW DUE:</b>	<b>REPLACES NUMBER:</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PAGES:</b>
Jan 6, 2022	Jan 6, 2023	07-038-00-Update	3
<b>APPLIES TO:</b>			
Allied Health Care Providers (HCP) – specifically: Physiotherapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Speech Language Pathology (SLP), Audiologist, Registered Dietician (RD), Respiratory Therapist (RT), Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP), Primary Care Paramedics (PCP), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN)			

### 1. BACKGROUND:

COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first detected in China in late 2019. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic. Coronavirus infections are diagnosed through health care professionals in consultation with public health teams and guidance based on symptoms, typically confirmed through laboratory testing.

The outbreak response in Nunavut is requiring additional support and involvement of allied HCP. This *COVID-19 Allied Health Provider Notification of Results* directive is intended to 1) provide an authorizing mechanism for allied HCP as defined above to communicate COVID-19 laboratory testing results; 2) provide a procedural outline; and 3) provide standardized guidance related to communicating results, follow-up, and mandatory reporting.

### 2. MEDICAL DIRECTIVE AND/OR DELEGATED PROCEDURE:

- 2.1 The allied HCP can communicate COVID-19 results within specific circumstances as outlined in section 6.
- 2.2 At the discretion of the Special Operations COVID 19 Response Team and the Chief Nursing Officer this directive may be applied to other designations.
- 2.3 This directive does not cover initiating or ordering testing for COVID-19. Registered Nurses, LPNs, Paramedics and Respiratory Therapists are permitted to initiate testing for COVID-19, according to *Policy 07-034-00 COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Authority*.
- 2.4 This medical directive **does not** apply to any laboratory results other than for COVID-19 testing.

### 3. Principles:

- 3.1 Allied HCPs are expected to practice within their own level of competence and seek guidance from their supervisor, physician, or Nurse Practitioner as needed.
- 3.2 Guidelines do not replace clinical judgement. Management decisions must be individualized.

### 4. RECIPIENT PATIENTS:

- 4.1 Nunavummiut of all ages

**5. AUTHORIZED IMPLEMENTERS:**

- 5.1 Allied HCPs and approved designates who possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to communicate COVID-19 test results, and who possess the specific training working within the Nunavut Virtual Public Health Nurse (VPHN) program for COVID-19.
- 5.2 Sub delegation to communicate a test result is **not** permitted to another regulated or non-regulated HCP who (1) are not listed in the directive/ delegation policy and (2) are not authorized to perform that procedure through other authorizing mechanisms like departmental policies, professional regulation acts and associations.

**6. INDICATIONS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- 6.1 The medical directive may be enacted when an allied HCP is working with the VPHN team and is required to communicate a COVID-19 test result to the client. The allied HCP must have completed/received additional training and support to communicate the COVID-19 test result.

**7. DEFINITIONS:**

**Allied Health Care Provider (HCP):** Licensed Practical Nurse (LPNS), Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP), Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) Physiotherapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), Audiologist, Registered Dietician (RD), Respiratory Therapist (RT).

**8. PROCEDURE:**

- 8.1 HCP onboarded on to VPHN team and Microsoft Teams outbreak-specific space
- 8.2 HCP receives directive-specific and general training
- 8.3 Throughout, HCP follows COVID-19 protocol & VPHN Processes
- 8.4 Assigned calls by VPHN Lead or supervisor via daily assignment sheet
- 8.5 Buddied with VPHN. If questions or issues arise, they reach out to that individual with questions.
- 8.6 Check COVID-tracker for laboratory results in yellow for household assigned
- 8.7 Call clients as per assignment sheet
- 8.8 Confirm two patient identifiers when calling to do symptom check and when providing negative laboratory results.
- 8.9 Reinforce and provide education with client that a negative result does not mean they are off isolation.
- 8.10 Fill out daily monitoring form as per processes. Do not document in Meditech.
- 8.11 Update the COVID-tracker with date notified of the laboratory result and remove yellow highlighting in the new lab result on the COVID-tracker
- 8.12 Strike through each household assigned once call completed.

**Practice Point:** Remember that positives protect but negatives mean nothing beyond that day. Someone with COVID-19 is almost certain to test negative the day after their exposure, even if they're going to go on to develop COVID-19 and be infectious; the timing of the test matters. Guidance for length of isolation to come from COVID-19 Protocol and the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO).

**9. DOCUMENTATION:**

- 9.1 HCPs must document communication of the results on the Daily Monitoring Form as directed by the VPHN training.
- 9.2 At minimum, the following must be documented:
  - i. Date, time, name, and designation of HCP.
  - ii. Result communicated

- iii. Follow-up instructions to the patient
- iv. Reference to this medical directive

**10. RELATED POLICIES, PROTOCOLS AND LEGISLATION:**

Policy 07-031-00 CHN Expanded Role: Diagnosing, initiating lab and x-ray tests, and initiating drug treatment.

Policy 07-034-00 COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Authority

Policy 08-005-00 Acknowledgement of Diagnostic Test Results

Policy 08-006-00 Follow up of Abnormal Diagnostic Test Results

Policy 06-008-01 Documentation Standard

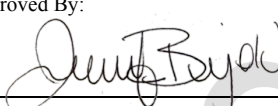
COVID-19 Public Health Protocol: <https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/information/manuals-guidelines>

**11. REFERENCES:**

Government of Canada. (2020). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

World Health Organization. Coronavirus disease. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

**12. APPROVALS:**

Approved By:	Date:
Gogi Greeley, a/ADM Operations – Department of Health	
Approved By:	Date:
	Jan 6, 2022
Jenifer Bujold, a/Chief Nursing Officer	
Approved By:	Date:
Dr. Francois de Wet, Chief of Staff, on behalf of the Medical Advisory Committee	