

For Immediate Release | November 4, 2020

Increased capacity at new COVID-19 testing centre

VERNON – Interior Health has established a new COVID-19 testing centre to increase capacity for Vernon and the surrounding area.

Effective Nov. 2, COVID-19 testing moved from the Vernon Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC) to a dedicated testing centre, located at the Vernon Health Centre, 1440-14th Ave.

The testing centre will increase the daily number of tests being performed and allow the UPCC to focus on of same-day primary care services. Although the majority of COVID-19 testing will occur at the new testing centre, the UPCC will perform some tests in special circumstances and retain the ability to absorb volume during periods of surging demand.

People can find more information about IH COVID-19 testing centres by visiting Interior Health's [Testing Information page](#).

Online booking for COVID-19 tests is available at most testing centres in the Interior region. Testing is available for those who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and those who have been sent for testing by a physician, nurse practitioner or public health. The online booking button can be found on the main www.interiorhealth.ca page.

While IH encourages people to book COVID-19 tests online, an IH Pandemic Support Line is also available at 1-877-740-7747, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The support line can assist people to set up an appointment.

Testing is recommended for anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of taste or smell
- Other milder symptoms may include: runny nose, fatigue, body aches (muscles and joints aching), diarrhea, headache, sore throat, vomiting and red eyes.

IH reminds everyone of the importance of following COVID-19 precautions:

- Stay home and avoid travel if you have symptoms, even mild ones.
- Maintain physical distancing (two metres apart) and use masks when distancing is not possible.
- Wash your hands regularly and do not touch your face.
- BCCDC recommends that you limit your social group to 5 – 10 people outside of your household members. Getting together outside, with lots of space between you, is the safest way to visit with people outside of your social group.

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Media, for information:

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