



**ORDER OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER**  
(Pursuant to section 13 of the *Health Professions General Regulation*, B.C. Reg 275/2008)

***LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE SARS-CoV-2 SWABBING ORDER***

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On March 17, 2020 I provided notice under section 52 (2) of the *Public Health Act* that the transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious illness known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of British Columbia, constitutes a regional event as defined in section 51 of the *Public Health Act* (the “**Emergency**”);
- B. Screening for infection with SARS-CoV-2 involves carrying out a nasopharyngeal swab, which requires the insertion of an instrument or device beyond the point of the nasal passages where they normally narrow, or a throat swab, which requires the insertion of an instrument or device beyond the pharynx (the “**Screening Activity**”);
- C. Section 7 of the *Nurses (Licensed Practical) Regulation* requires that licensed practical nurses obtain a client-specific order, made by a designated health professional, before performing the Screening Activity (the “**Client-Specific Order Requirement**”);
- D. I am of the opinion that:
  - (i) the Client-Specific Order Requirement adversely affects the timely delivery of the Screening Activity, and the efficient and effective use of health human resources, throughout British Columbia, and
  - (ii) licensed practical nurses may perform the Screening Activity, as authorized by this order, without undue risk to the health or safety of the patient or any other person.

**I, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, order that notwithstanding the Client-Specific Order Requirement or any standard set by the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals that conflicts or may conflict with this order, a licensed practical nurse is authorized to perform the Screening Activity, subject to the following conditions:**

- 1. The Screening Activity must be performed in the course of providing a screening program approved by a medical health officer with responsibility for the geographic area in which the activity is performed.

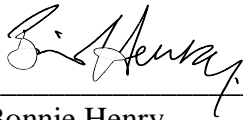
2. The Screening Activity must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines issued by the BC Centre for Disease Control (the “**Guidelines**”) posted at the following website:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/lab-testing>

3. The licensed practical nurse’s employer or a medical health officer must first assess the licensed practical nurse’s competence to perform the Screening Activity in a manner that is safe for both the client and the licensed practical nurse, including by requiring the licensed practical nurse to demonstrate knowledge, in accordance with the Guidelines, respecting who to test, specimen collection and labelling, and the use of personal protective equipment. The licensed practical nurse’s employer may only make this assessment if the employer is a registrant, or is acting on the advice of a registrant, who has assessed the licensed practical nurse and who is authorized under a health profession regulation, and competent, to perform the Screening Activity without a client-specific order.

Unless rescinded earlier, this order will end on the date that I provide notice under section 59 (b) of the *Public Health Act* that the Emergency has passed.

SIGNED:



Bonnie Henry  
MD, MPH, FRCPC  
Provincial Health Officer

DATE: May 7, 2020