

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

24-65

**To:** Urgent Primary Care Clinic Staff and Primary Care Clinic Staff in the Okanagan Area

**From:** Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Helen Bibby, Medical Microbiologist, Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

**Re:** Respiratory Viral Testing 2024-2025 Season

Interior Health microbiology laboratories have begun seasonal testing for Influenza A, B, RSV and SARS-CoV-2. Respiratory viral testing is **not routinely performed on outpatients** except for:

- patients who are at high risk of negative outcomes in whom knowing the etiology of a respiratory viral illness would change management (i.e., through treatment)
- patients <3 months old

Outpatients <3 months old will also be eligible for “Magpix” testing, an expanded respiratory pathogen panel performed at all IH microbiology laboratories, if testing for Influenza A, B, RSV and SARS-CoV-2 is negative.

The “Magpix assay will include testing for the following pathogens:

- Adenovirus
- Bocavirus
- Coronaviruses 229E, NL63, OC43
- Metapneumovirus
- Parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Rhinovirus/Enterovirus

### Important Information

- If an outpatient is being considered for antiviral treatment or is < 3 months old with compatible symptoms, Influenza A, B, RSV and SARS-CoV-2 testing may be requested.
- “Magpix” expanded respiratory viral testing can also be requested if the patient is <3 months old.
- Only one nasopharyngeal swab specimen is needed to perform Influenza A, B, RSV, SARS-CoV-2 testing and “Magpix”.
- Please submit the specimen with a standard IH Laboratory Requisition.

### Action Required

- Submit NP swab specimens and the completed requisition to your local laboratory when an outpatient is eligible for respiratory viral testing.