

October 10th, 2024

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To: Urgent Primary Care Clinic Staff and Primary Care Clinic Staff in the Thompson-Cariboo and Kootenay Areas

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
- Coronaviruses 229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43
- SARS-CoV-2
- Enterovirus/Rhinovirus
- Metapneumovirus
- Parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Influenza A
- Influenza B
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- *Bordetella parapertussis*
- *Bordetella pertussis*
- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*
- *Chlamydia pneumoniae*

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.