

<b>DATE:</b>	28 November 2022
<b>TO:</b>	Calgary Zone Health Care Providers
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Rapid COVID-19 PCR and Influenza/RSV PCR Testing Changes</b>

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### Key Message

- Effective November 28, 2022, all respiratory virus testing including rapid COVID-19 PCR and rapid influenza/RSV PCR will be tested at the Alberta Public Health Laboratory (ProvLab) South.
- There will be no change in ordering or collection for these tests.
- Turnaround time for rapid COVID-19 PCR and influenza/RSV PCR testing will not be impacted.

### Background

- Rapid COVID-19 PCR and influenza/RSV PCR testing on symptomatic patients for acute care sites has been performed by APL-Microbiology (formerly CLS Microbiology). This includes the “COVID-19 Inpatient” order in SCM.
- Rapid COVID-19 PCR testing at ProvLab will continue with the Cepheid Xpert Xpress System and Diasorin Simplexa. The Aptima SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid amplification assay on the Hologic Panther System will also be used. The Aptima assay has been in use in Alberta during the pandemic and has equivalent sensitivity and specificity to other assays used for COVID-19 PCR.
- This does not impact ID NOW testing sites or protocols.

### Action Required

- Continue ordering testing for respiratory viruses when appropriate.
- Contact the ProvLab for inquiries. For medical/scientific consultation contact the ProvLab microbiologist on-call and NOT the CLS or DynaLife microbiologist on-call.

### Questions

- Dr. Byron Berenger, Medical Microbiologist, ProvLab and South Sector Acute Microbiology, APL ([Byron.Berenger@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Byron.Berenger@albertaprecisionlabs.ca))
- Dr. Nathan Zelyas, Medical Microbiologist, ProvLab, APL ([Nathan.Zelyas@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:Nathan.Zelyas@albertaprecisionlabs.ca))

### Approved by

- Dr. Dylan R. Pillai, Medical Director, South Sector, APL
- Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical Scientific Director, ProvLab, APL