

Date: August 26, 2019
To: Former David Thompson Health Region Physicians, Nurses, Hospital Units, Emergency Departments, Infection Prevention and Control, and Medical Officers of Health
From: Red Deer Regional Hospital Microbiology & Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)
Re: Ordering of Rapid Influenza A/B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Tests

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

- Effective **September 16, 2019**, the Red Deer Regional Hospital microbiology laboratory will begin onsite rapid PCR-based detection for Influenza A/B and RSV.
- Testing will be available to all hospital and emergency room patients as well as community patients identified as part of a Public Health outbreak investigation.
- Testing at ProvLab for respiratory viruses on the respiratory pathogen panel (RPP) will no longer be performed unless the patient has a documented history of severe immunocompromise, hypoxic respiratory failure, or involvement in an outbreak investigation.
- The RSV antigen test will no longer be performed.

Why this is Important:

- Referral of respiratory virus testing to ProvLab in Edmonton delays results by up to 3 days.
- With the exception of influenza and RSV, in most cases, extended respiratory virus testing results from the RPP do not improve patient management.
- Rapid onsite testing for influenza A/B and RSV will provide results within hours of collection allowing for prompt and appropriate clinical decision making.

Action Required:

- Requirements for specimen testing, collection and transport remain the same. Refer to the Laboratory Test Directory: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/lab/page3217.aspx>.
- For hospital and emergency patients, respiratory virus testing orders must be submitted through Meditech as follows:
 - 1) Order **RSVINF** as the procedure in the MIC Category.
 - If only rapid influenza A/B and RSV testing is required, select **RSVINF** (default) in the 'Test Ordered' field.
 - No historical indications are required.

	Category	*Procedure	Procedure Name	*Priority	Quantity	*Date	Time	Series
1	MIC	RSVINF	RAPID RSV AND INFL...	S		T 20/12	1423	

*Test Ordered?	RSVINF
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- For physician orders requiring extended respiratory viral panel testing on the RPP at ProvLab, select **RSVRPP** in the 'Test Ordered' field.
 - Physicians must provide history of hypoxic respiratory failure, severe immunocompromise, or outbreak in the history section of the order.
 - For outbreaks, if an EI # is available, enter it in the specified field.

	Category	*Procedure	Procedure Name	*Priority	Quantity	*Date	Time	Series
1	MIC	RSVINP	RAPID RSV AND INFL...	S		T 20/12	1423	

*Test Ordered? **RSVRPP**

*Significant Hx?
 No history Hypoxic Resp failure Severe Immunocompromise Outbreak

Outbreak EI#:

- 2) The VIROV1 order will no longer be used for respiratory virus testing.
- Community patients will only have rapid influenza A/B and RSV as well as RPP testing done if they are identified as part of an outbreak investigation by Public Health and an EI # is included on the accompanying ProvLab or Central Zone requisition.
 - All other community requests for respiratory virus testing will continue to be referred to ProvLab for dedicated Influenza A/B PCR testing.
 - If extended respiratory viral panel testing is otherwise required, contact the **Virologist/Microbiologist-On-Call** for ProvLab North via the UAH switchboard at **780-407-8822**.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

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