

---

**Date:** June 1, 2015

**To:** Alberta Health, Laboratory Directors and Managers, Medical Officers of Health,  
All Physicians, All Nurse Leads, Infection Prevention and Control, FNIHB

**From:** Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

**Re:** Cessation of Phoning Influenza A/B Positive Results on Hospitalized Patients  
to Patient Wards

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Messages:**

- ProvLab will cease phoning positive influenza A/B results to wards for hospitalized patients.
- Process effective June 1, 2015.
- ProvLab Edmonton and Calgary sites undertake all influenza A and B testing by molecular methods in the province of Alberta.
- Influenza A and B results are usually completed  $\leq 4$  days after collection:  $>95\%$  have a transit time to the laboratory of  $\leq 2$  days with most results completed  $\leq 2$  days of specimen receipt.
- **Patients who are hospitalized, and who are diagnosed with influenza A or B, currently have results accessible immediately after completion of testing on both Netcare and Sunrise Clinical Manager (SCM).**
- Historically, on identification of an influenza positive patient, ProvLab staff would also attempt to give a verbal result of a positive influenza A or B to staff on the ward managing the hospitalized patient.
- This activity required significant staffing resources, identification of patient location, multiple phone calls and pages for each case, and usually relayed the information after the patient's care team had already identified the result on Netcare or SCM.

**Action required:**

- If your patient is hospitalized, use Netcare to look up your patient's influenza A/B test results. In the Calgary zone, you can also use SCM to look up your patient's influenza A/B test results.
  - **influenza A/B results are generally available  $\leq 4$  days after collection.**

**Inquiries about results (e.g. If you cannot find a hospitalized patient influenza result on Netcare or SCM >4 days after collection, or are unable to access these systems):**

During regular hours (Mon-Fri: 8 am-11 pm; Sat-Sun and Statutory Holidays: 8 am-4 pm) call the ProvLab contact numbers below and ask to speak with a Technologist in Molecular Diagnostics.

- Edmonton Site – Phone: 780-407-7495
- Calgary Site – Phone: 403-944-1239
- Outside these hours or for general inquiries: For Edmonton ProvLab page the Virologist-on-Call directly or through switchboard (780) 407-8822. For Calgary ProvLab page the ProvLab Microbiologist/Virologist-on-Call directly or through switchboard (403) 944-1110.

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)