Date: April 20, 2020  
To: Central Zone and South Zone Physicians  
From: Microbiology Section, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL)  
Re: Redirection of RSV/Influenza Testing to APL Public Health Laboratory from South & Central Zones

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Key Message:
- Effective April 16, 2020, on-site rapid RSV/Influenza testing will be suspended at Chinook Regional Hospital, Medicine Hat Regional Hospital, and Red Deer Regional Hospital Laboratories.
- This change does not affect COVID-19 testing. All specimens submitted for respiratory virus testing, including outstanding RSV/Influenza requests, will be tested for COVID-19.
- Respiratory virus testing requests for viruses other than COVID-19 will be sent to the APL Public Health Laboratory for the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP), which includes influenza and RSV.
- Turnaround time for RPP will be within 48 hours of receipt at the APL Public Health Laboratory.

Why This Is Important:
- As influenza season is ending, and the number of COVID-19 cases increases in Alberta, viral testing resources are being deployed to focus on COVID-19.

Action Required:
- Viral examination (VIROV1) should be used for all viral testing orders.
- RSV/Influenza testing (RSVINF) will no longer be orderable in Meditech.
- Outstanding RSVINF orders received at APL will be redirected as above.

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
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