



**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 (RSVINFL) will no longer be orderable in Meditech.
- Outstanding RSVINF orders received at APL will be redirected as above.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

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

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