

April 20, 2020

CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Influenza/RSV PCR Testing in Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories

Date effective: April 20, 2020

Background Information:

Influenza is a seasonal illness. In North America, influenza season occurs in the fall and winter with peak activity between December and February. Current influenza positivity rates in Manitoba and Canada are <1%. Routine testing of outpatients for influenza at this time, **including emergency room patients who will not be admitted to hospital**, is not the best use of our limited resources. This temporary change in laboratory testing practice will permit Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories to focus their molecular testing resources on COVID-19.

Change in Test Procedure:

- Influenza/RSV PCR testing at Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories will temporarily be restricted to **confirmed** hospital in-patients only.
- Only samples for influenza/RSV PCR testing received on an **original** CPL requisition will be accepted by Shared Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratories. Photocopied CPL requisitions will not be accepted.

Patient Impact:

- None.

Contact Information:

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