

IMPORTANT LAB UPDATE

September 26th, 2023 23-48

To: IH Long-term care staff, IPAC, CD Unit, IH Medical Health Officers From: Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director,

Microbiology, Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

Re: Respiratory Viral Testing 2023-2024 Season

Beginning September 28th 2023, Interior Health microbiology laboratories will begin seasonal testing for Influenza A, B, RSV and COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) on specimens from long-term care/assisted living facilities if the patient has compatible symptoms. If testing is negative, specimens will automatically be tested on the "Magpix" assay, an expanded respiratory pathogen panel at KGH.

The "Magpix" assay will include testing for the following pathogens:

- Adenovirus
- Bocavirus
- o Coronaviruses 229E, NL63, OC43
- Metapneumovirus
- o Parainfluenza viruses I, 2, 3 and 4
- Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
- Legionella pneumophila
- Mycoplasma pneumoniae
- Chlamydia pneumoniae

<u>Saline gargle collection kits have been discontinued</u> and <u>will NOT be tested</u>. Please discard these collection kits if they remain in your inventory. A throat swab is recommended for patients who cannot tolerate an NP swab although they don't perform as well.

Important Information

- Only one specimen is needed to perform Influenza A, B, RSV, SARS-CoV-2 and "Magpix" testing.
- Acceptable specimen types include nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs and throat swabs.
 Note: An NP swab will provide the best results.
- "Magpix" testing will be performed automatically if Influenza A, B, RSV and SARS-CoV-2 is negative.

Action Required

IH facilities

All IH facilities are asked to enter orders in Meditech (see ordering guide on page 2)

Note: this chart can also be found on the IH public website at

https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/respiratory-viral-testing-ordering-chart-om-flu-season-long-term-care.pdf

- For specimens associated with an outbreak, also submit a PHSA Virology requisition, including outbreak location/information (see example on page 3)
- Submit specimens to your local laboratory

Private facilities

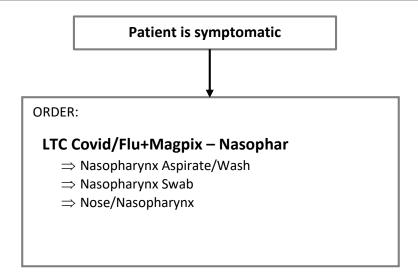
- All private facilities are asked to submit a PHSA Virology requisition, including outbreak location/information if applicable (see example on page 3)
- Submit specimens to your local laboratory



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Flu Season 2023/2024 Influenza A & B/RSV/Covid-19/Magpix MEDITECH Long Term Care Ordering Guide



Note: This ordering guide does NOT apply to health care workers of Long Term Care (i.e. applies to residents only).
Please follow current testing guidelines for health care workers.

During Flu season:

- Influenza A & B/RSV and COVID-19 PCR testing will be done at an IH site for all specimens.
- Magpix testing If specimen is PCR negative for COVID-19, Influenza A/B & RSV, Magpix testing will be performed at Kelowna General Hospital.



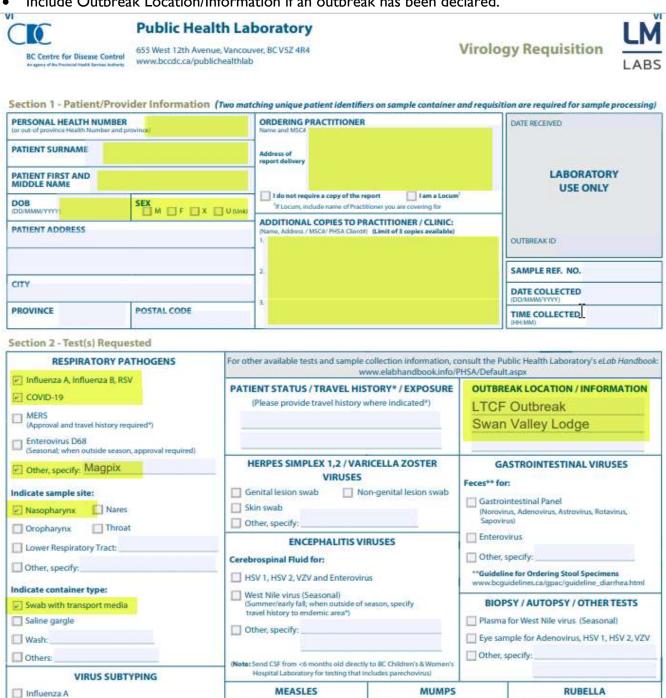
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Example of PHSA Virology Requisition

- Please fill out all areas highlighted in yellow, select "Influenza A, Influenza B, RSV", "Covid-19" and "Other", with "Magpix written on the specified line
- Include Outbreak Location/Information if an outbreak has been declared.



Adenovirus

(Surveillance/outbreak investigations only)

HEPATITIS VIRUSES

or viral signal: weak / strong

Nasopharyngeal swab

Throat swab

Other, specify:

☐ Urine

Buccal/Oral swab

Other, specify:

Urine

Nasopharyngeal washing/swab

Throat swab

Other, specify:

Urine