

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

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**To:** IH Physicians, IH Acute Care Staff  
**From:** Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director, Microbiology, Dr. Amir Hadzic, Microbiologist, Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

**Re:** *Pneumocystis jirovecii* PCR testing will now be performed at KGH

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the microbiology laboratory at Kelowna General Hospital (KGH) will introduce a molecular assay for *P. jirovecii* on bronchoscopy specimens, which will improve turn around time as specimens were previously tested at St. Paul's Hospital.

*P. jirovecii* can cause severe infection in immunocompromised patients but may also colonize up to 20% of immunocompetent individuals, with higher rates in the immunocompromised patients. Since results may reflect colonization or infection, all testing requires approval from the Medical Microbiologist on-call to ensure high probability of infection and to aid in the interpretation of results.

### Important Information

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- Most responsible provider must contact the microbiologist on-call to review the case and obtain approval **prior to testing**
- Patients are eligible for testing if they:
  - are immunocompromised **AND**
  - have a compatible clinical presentation **AND**
  - do not have an alternative diagnosis to better explain the presentation.
- Submit at least 1 mL of bronchoscopy fluid in a sterile container for testing
- Order PJP PCR on **one** sample per bronchoscopy (from the most affected region).
  - order sample in Meditech as "**Pneumocystis jirovecii – PJP PCR**"
  - if multiple orders are placed, laboratory will test one sample and cancel additional orders

### Action Required

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- After obtaining microbiologist on-call approval, submit **one** bronchoscopy specimen to your local IH laboratory for PJP PCR testing
- The specimen will be forwarded to KGH laboratory and tested within 1 day of receipt