

August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

ILU 24-51

**To:** IH Emergency Department staff, IH Maternal and Child Health, IH Pediatricians  
**From:** Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director, Microbiology, Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

**Re:** New criteria for “Magpix” Expanded Respiratory Panel Testing in Pediatrics

In alignment with clinical ordering practices at BC Children’s Hospital and in the interest of appropriate test stewardship, “Magpix” expanded respiratory viral testing will no longer be performed automatically for children <5 years old with respiratory illness.

All infants <3 months old should continue to have “Magpix” ordered routinely. For children/adolescents ≥3 months old, “Magpix” testing can be ordered by the provider if certain clinical criteria are met - See Important Information below.

COVID-19, Influenza A/B and RSV (when in season) will continue to be performed on all requests for respiratory virus testing.

### Important Information

- When testing for respiratory illness is required, COVID-19 and Influenza A/B and RSV (when in season) will be performed on all patients
- As recommended by BC Children’s Hospital, requests for “Magpix” expanded respiratory viral testing should be limited to only:
  - infants <3 months old
  - OR
  - children <18 years old who have at least one of the following clinical criteria:
    - hospitalization due to respiratory illness
    - immunocompromised
    - medically complex cases where a viral diagnosis will inform management decisions
    - prolonged fever ≥5 days
    - a returned traveller who is febrile and suspected of viral illness

### Action Required

- For patients with respiratory illness, use the criteria above to direct ordering of “Magpix”, as recommended by BC Children’s hospital
- Refer to [respiratory-viral-testing-ordering-chart-meditech-users-acute-care-pediatric.pdf](#) ([interiorhealth.ca](#)) found at [www.interiorhealth.ca](#) > Information For> Medical Staff > Laboratory Department Specific Services > Microbiology > Specimen ordering and collection job aids