

October 8th, 2026

26-56

To: IH Acute Care Staff, IH Providers
From: Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amir Hadzic, Medical Microbiologist, Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director
Re: Respiratory Testing Order Changes

Effective **October 14th, 2026**, Interior Health Microbiology Laboratory will introduce updated names and ordering processes for respiratory testing in **Meditech**. These changes are intended to simplify ordering and support appropriate use of respiratory panels.

The new names will be implemented in Meditech on October 14th; paper order sets will continue to use the current names until they are updated at a later date.

Important Information

1. Routine Respiratory Panel (RRP) – FIRST-LINE TEST

The **Routine Resp Panel/RRP** replaces the current *Virus Covid/Flu* orders and includes:

- COVID-19
- Influenza A & B
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

➤ The RRP is the **Laboratory-recommended first-line test** for patients with respiratory symptoms.

How to Order RRP in Meditech:

- For *nasopharyngeal specimens*, order **Routine Resp Panel/RRP Nasoph.**
- Other specimen sources have separate RRP orders (e.g. Sputum, Endotracheal aspirate and Bronchial Wash). Refer to the [Microbiology Test Directory](#).

2. Extended Respiratory Panel (ERP) – SECOND-LINE TEST

The **Extended Resp Panel/ERP** replaces the current *Virus Covid/Flu+Magpix* orders.

- For adult inpatients, ERP should be ordered only when one or more of the following criteria are met:
 - Immunocompromised patient
 - Suspected *Mycoplasma* or *Chlamydia* infection
 - Patient requiring critical care
 - Diagnostic uncertainty where the result **will change management**
- ERP is **no longer routinely required** for admission, patient placement, cohorting, or patient flow purposes.

How to Order ERP in Meditech:

- For *nasopharyngeal specimens*, order **Extended Resp Panel/ERP Nasoph.**
- Other specimen sources have separate RRP orders (e.g. Sputum, Endotracheal aspirate and Bronchial Wash). Refer to the [Microbiology Test Directory](#).

Action Required

- Beginning **October 14, 2026**, use the new **Routine Resp Panel/RRP** as the first-line respiratory test. For adult inpatients, order **Extended Resp Panel/ERP only when the criteria above are met.**