

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

24-61

**To:** Okanagan Area Acute Care Staff, Practitioners and IPAC  
**From:** Microbiology Working Group, Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director,  
Microbiology, Melinda Carrier, Health Services Director

**Re:** Respiratory Viral Testing 2024-2025 Season

Beginning October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Interior Health microbiology laboratories will begin seasonal testing for Influenza A, B, RSV and COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2).

If testing is requested by the most responsible provider, inpatients and any patient <3 months old will also be eligible for “Magpix” testing, an expanded respiratory pathogen panel performed at KGH, if testing for Influenza A, B, RSV and SARS-CoV-2 is negative.

*Note: Patients who have been discharged home are not eligible for the “Magpix” assay. Please do not order “Magpix” in the emergency department if the patient will not be admitted to the hospital (unless the patient is <3 months old).*

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

- Adenovirus
- Bocavirus
- Coronaviruses 229E, NL63, OC43
- Metapneumovirus
- Parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Rhinovirus/Enterovirus

**Notably, *Legionella pneumophila* is not tested routinely on the “Magpix” panel.** A lower respiratory specimen such as a sputum, endotracheal aspirate or bronchial wash must be submitted for “Magpix”, and/or a urine antigen specimen, if *Legionella* testing is required.

### Important Information

- Only one specimen is needed to perform Influenza A, B, RSV, SARS-CoV-2 and (if eligible) “Magpix” testing.
- “Magpix” testing is available if Influenza A, B, RSV and SARS CoV-2 is negative AND
  - patient is <3 months old
  - patient is admitted to an acute care ward with physician request for “Magpix”
- Acceptable specimen types include:
  - nasopharyngeal (NP) swab
  - bronchial wash
  - endotracheal aspirate
  - sputum
  - throat swab

*Note: Throat swabs are the least preferred as they are not an optimal specimen type and should only be used if the patient cannot tolerate an NP swab.*

### Action Required

- Submit specimens to your local laboratory
- Refer to ordering chart on page 2 for instructions on entering orders into Meditech

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

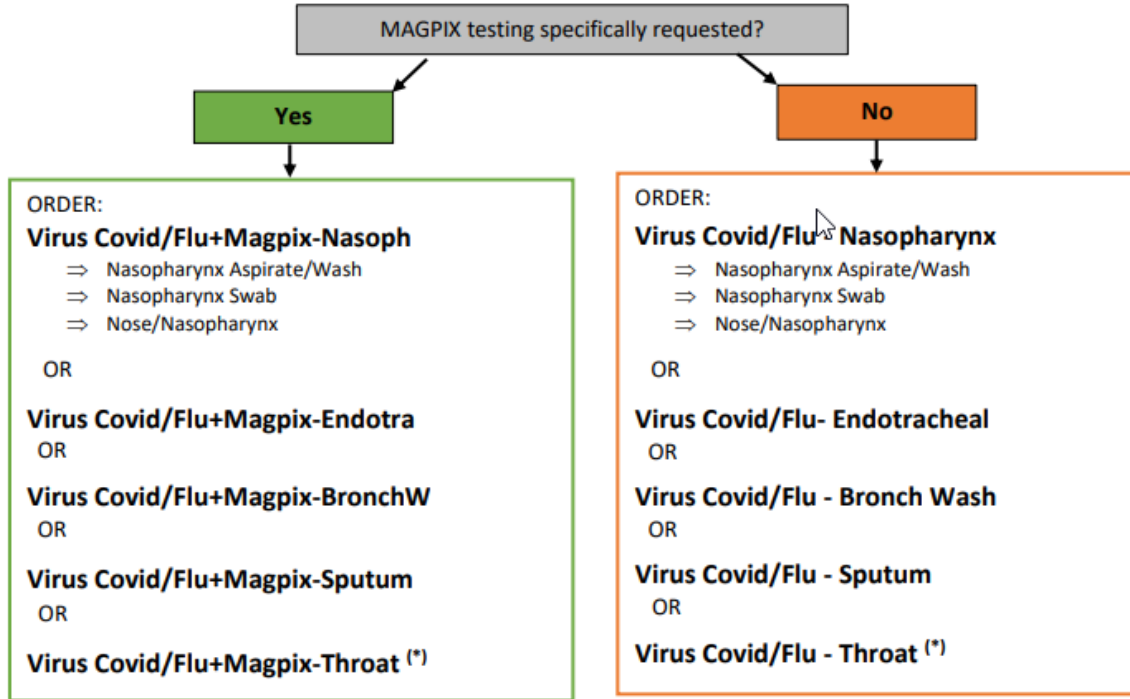
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/respiratory-viral-testing-ordering-chart-om-flu-season-acute-care.pdf>



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**MEDITECH Acute Care Ordering Guide**  
**Adult (≥18 years) Respiratory Pathogen Testing - Influenza A & B/RSV/Covid-19/Magpix**



*\*Note: Throat swabs are the least preferred as they are a suboptimal specimen type, and should only be used if the patient cannot tolerate a nasopharyngeal swab. Throat swabs must be collected with the "blue-top" Copan Universal Transport Medium kit.*

October to April (during Flu season): Influenza A & B/RSV and COVID-19 PCR testing will be done for all specimens. "Magpix" expanded respiratory pathogen testing will be performed on request.

May to October (outside of Flu Season): All specimens will be tested for Covid-19. Influenza and RSV testing is not routinely available; however, "Magpix" expanded respiratory pathogen testing (including Influenza and RSV) will be performed on request.

*Please note: Patients who are assessed in the emergency department and discharged home will not be eligible for Magpix testing.*

*If testing for Legionella is required, submit a lower respiratory specimen (sputum, endotracheal aspirate or bronchial wash) with a "Magpix" order. Legionella testing cannot be performed on nasopharyngeal samples or throat swabs.*