

MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff

From: Dr David Richardson, Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology

Date: 30th October, 2019

Subject: Respiratory Virus Testing and Influenza Season

Respiratory Virus Testing and Influenza Season

On November 4th the laboratory will begin in-house PCR testing for influenza/RSV. This testing will be available for admitted patients and children under the age of 5. In accordance with Public Health Ontario, no respiratory virus testing is available for other Emergency department patients or ambulatory patients. Please do not order testing on these patients. If testing is ordered on patients outside these criteria the test will be cancelled by the laboratory. Please also note that duplicate respiratory virus testing ordered within 3 days of an initial order will be cancelled.

Inpatients who test negative for influenza/RSV will have specimens sent to the Public Health Ontario laboratory for further testing*.

*Multiplex respiratory virus PCR assay at PHO Laboratory detects 11 virus targets. These include influenza A, influenza A H3 subtype, influenza A H1 (pdm09) subtype, influenza B, respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza, adenovirus, enterovirus, seasonal human coronaviruses, rhinovirus, and human metapneumovirus.