

October 16th, 2020

20-66

To: IH Clinical Staff
From: Hope Byrne, Director, Microbiology Working Group
Dr. Amanda Wilmer, Medical Director, Microbiology

Re: Respiratory Virus Testing 2020-2021 Season

Molecular testing for COVID-19 will continue to be performed on all inpatients and outpatients with compatible symptoms, in cases of known exposure or, upon request of the MHO.

Beginning October 20th, 2020, Interior Health will also perform seasonal testing for Influenza A, B and RSV in addition to COVID-19 testing on select patients, including those who are:

- inpatients
- residing in long-term care/assisted living facilities
- pregnant

*Please note: Patients seen in the emergency department and not admitted are considered outpatients and will be tested for COVID-19 only. **If an emergency patient is admitted or likely to be admitted, please select the “Inpatient” category in Meditech when identifying patient risk.***

This testing will be performed at each regional microbiology laboratory in Kamloops (RIH), Cranbrook (EKH), Kelowna (KGH) and Trail (KBH) with the exception of routine outpatient specimens, which will continue to be tested at KGH for most of the region. Routine outpatient specimens from IH West will transition to testing in-house at RIH in the near future.

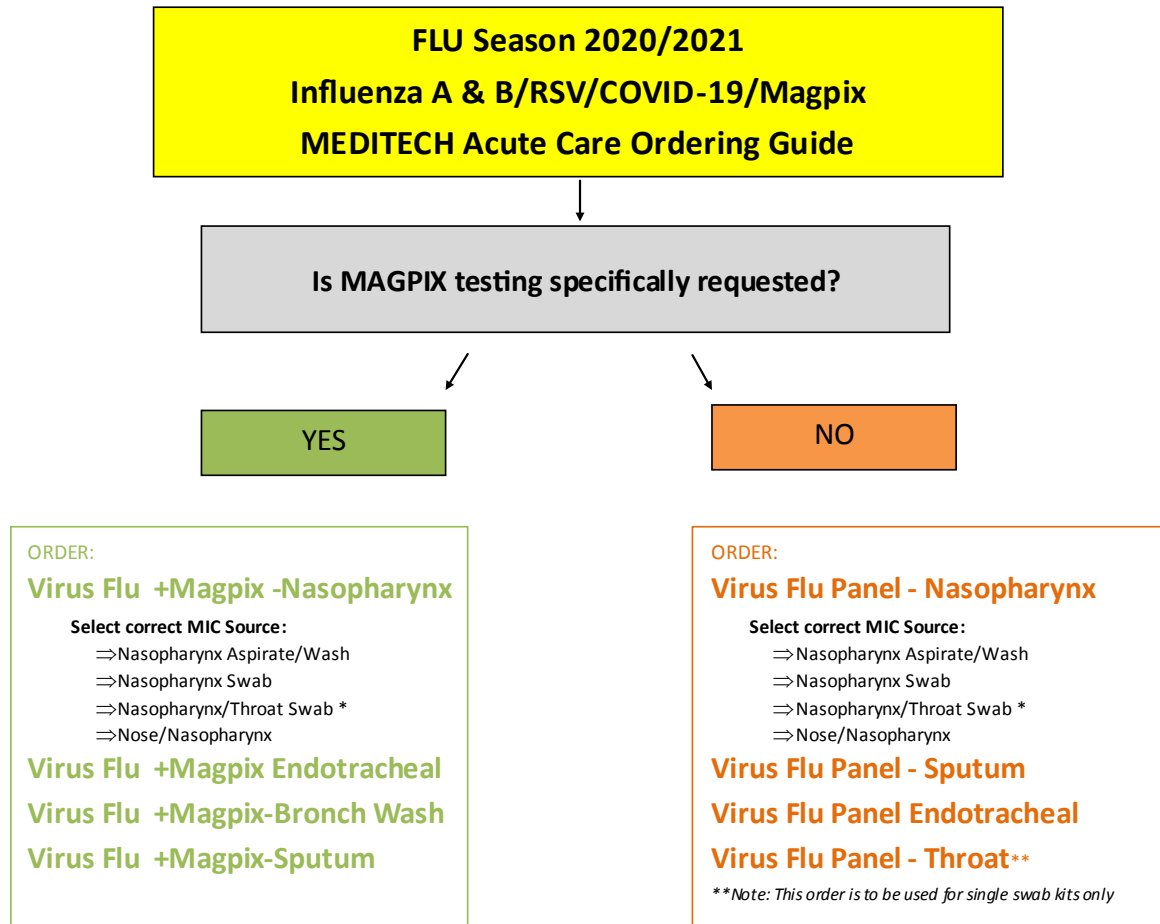
This testing will be performed 7 days a week.

Important Information

- The following specimens will be forwarded to BCCDC for “Magpix”, a panel which tests for additional viral and atypical bacterial pathogens, if negative for Influenza A, B and RSV and/or COVID-19:
 - bronchoscopy specimens
 - patient in long term care or assisted living facility
 - if physician requests “Magpix”
- Order management will encounter multiple changes to order entry this season – please refer to the Guide to Lab Services for the most up-to-date ordering guide (also attached below).
- Please note: There will be no change to collection container requirements. Only one specimen is needed to perform COVID-19 and Influenza A, B and RSV testing.

Action Required

- Submit specimens to your local microbiology laboratory
- Your local laboratory will arrange for testing be performed within IH or, forwarded to BCCDC when testing for additional pathogens is required.



* **Double swab kits:** Use appropriate Nasopharynx order and select MIC source 'Nasopharynx/Throat Swab' to indicate both swabs are in specimen container

During Flu season:

- Influenza A & B/RSV/COVID19 PCR testing will be done at an IH site for all specimens
- If **Magpix testing** is ordered, specimens negative for Influenza A & B/RSV/COVID19 PCR will be forwarded to BCCDC for MAGPIX testing