

Date: 06 November 2023

To: All SHA Physicians, Medical Health Officers, Clinicians, Care Providers, and Laboratories

From: Provincial Microbiology Discipline – Laboratory Medicine

Re: Viral Respiratory Testing & Outbreak Testing Refresher

PLEASE POST AND DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Messages:

- There are no changes to the respiratory testing algorithm at this time.

Actions Required:

- No changes in ordering are required, however a refresher on suggested ordering practices is included for convenience on the following page.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to the on-call Microbiologist:

- Saskatoon ISA and Northern ISA: Call the Royal University Hospital Switchboard at (306) 655-1000
- Regina ISA and Rural ISA: call the Regina General Hospital or Roy Romanow Provincial Lab Switchboard at (306) 766-4444 or (306) 798-1234

Suggested Respiratory Testing Practices

Test Type	Platform	Location	Viruses Included	Approximate Turnaround Time [§]	Outpatients [‡]	Inpatients/ER	Outbreak ID (symptomatic)	Outbreak Mass Screening (including asymptomatic)
Point of Care PCR	Abbott ID Now	Various ERs and Hospital Wards*	SARS-CoV-2	15 min		X	X	X
			Influenza A/B	15 min		X	X	X
Rapid PCR	GeneXpert	Urban & Rural Labs [#]	SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A/B, RSV	2 hours	X [†]	X	X	
In-Lab PCR	Routine	RRPL/RUH	SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A/B, RSV	24 hours	X	X	X	X
	Expanded Respiratory Viral Panel	RRPL/RUH	SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A/B, RSV, PIV1-4, AdV, MPV, RV, Seasonal HCoVs	24-48 hours		X	X (6 maximum)	

*Where available. To add ID Now testing to your location further information can be requested through email: poclab@saskhealthauthority.ca

[#]GeneXperts are located at the following SHA hospital laboratories: Hudson Bay, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Regina (RGH), Saskatoon (RUH), Swift Current, Tisdale, Melfort, Weyburn, Yorkton, Ile a la Crosse, La Loche, La Ronge, Moosomin, Kindersley, and Fort Qu'appelle.

[§]Approximate turnaround time is from arrival of specimen at testing site.

[‡]Outpatients may receive the expanded respiratory viral panel upon consultation with a Microbiologist on-Call.

[†]When local laboratory capacity allows.