



LABORATORY BULLETIN

2008 - June - 18

Bulletin # 2008 - 9

**To: Pediatric and Adult ID Physicians
Laboratory Directors and Managers
Medical Officers of Health
Alberta Health and Wellness
Respirologists
Intensive Care Specialists
Transplant Physicians**

Re: Changes To Testing For Respiratory Viruses In Nasopharyngeal (NP) Samples

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Changes to respiratory virus testing for NP samples effective 25th June 2008

Since 26th February 2008, a nucleic acid test (NAT) array (RVP assay from Luminex molecular diagnostics) has been utilized to test non-NP respiratory samples (mainly throat swabs and bronchoalveolar lavage) for respiratory viruses. This test provides broad detection of influenza (IFV)A, IFVB, respiratory syncytial virus, human metapneumovirus, adenoviruses, parainfluenzavirus 1-4, coronaviruses and picornaviruses (rhinoviruses and enteroviruses).

As described in the original plan, this array assay will now be extended to testing of direct fluorescent antigen (DFA) negative NP samples submitted to ProvLab for respiratory virus diagnosis (and will replace the separate in house NATs). This change will simplify the report (from multi-pages to 1-2) and enhance the range of viruses identified.

If you have any queries or comments regarding this bulletin or other aspects of respiratory virus testing please contact one of us:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie D Fox".

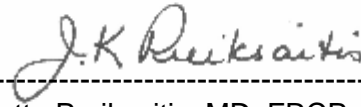
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This bulletin was distributed to:

- Infectious Disease Physicians- Edmonton, Calgary
- Medical Officers of Health- Alberta, First Nations, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
- Transplant physicians- Edmonton, Calgary
- Alberta Health & Wellness
- Respiriologists- Edmonton, Calgary
- Critical Care Physicians- Edmonton, Calgary
- Laboratory Directors/Consultants of Alberta
- Laboratory Managers- Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut