

Date: December 10, 2009
To: Alberta Health & Wellness, Infection Prevention and Control (Brenda Hannah), Physicians in Emergency Departments, Laboratory Managers and Directors, Infectious Diseases Physicians, Medical Officers of Health, and MicroNet Members
From: ProvLab
Re: Resumption of Routine Influenza & Respiratory Virus Testing

Key Message:

ProvLab is resuming routine influenza and respiratory virus testing from hospital and community patients.

With the overall reduction of influenza activity, ProvLab is now able to **resume** requests for routine influenza and respiratory virus testing.

Ordering Influenza Testing

Please continue to use and complete all requested fields on the "[Requisition for Influenza and Respiratory Virus Testing during Pandemic](#)" to order routine influenza and respiratory virus testing.

Note: Generally pandemic influenza has been a self-limiting illness. Indications for testing may include severe disease and risk factors for severe respiratory illness.

Laboratory Testing Algorithm:

Influenza A testing, including pandemic influenza (H1N1) will be performed first. If negative, testing for the other respiratory viruses will then follow.

Laboratory Action Required:

Effective immediately, laboratories are asked to resume sending ALL respiratory samples for testing to ProvLab.

To Contact the Microbiologist on call:

Edmonton Site: 780-407-8822 (UAH Switchboard) or
780-407-7121 (Laboratory - ask for the Microbiologist-on-Call)

Calgary Site: 403-944-1200 (ask for Virologist / Microbiologist-on-Call)