

LABORATORY BULLETIN

2009 – October 22

Bulletin # 2009– 12

To: Alberta Health & Wellness, All Physicians, CDC Nurses, Infection Prevention & Control, Infectious Disease Physicians, Laboratory Managers & Directors, Medical Officers of Health

Re: Discontinuation of EI Numbers 236, 238 & 307 Used for Prioritizing Respiratory Virus Testing in First Wave of Pandemic

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Background:

Public health officials track outbreak specimens submitted to ProvLab by assigning an Exposure Incident (EI) number specific to each outbreak investigation.

EI numbers 236, 238 & 307 were issued in the first wave of the pandemic to allow triaging of critical samples for prioritized influenza testing at ProvLab. However, these EI numbers have been used in an attempt to “jump the queue” resulting in inappropriate prioritizing and testing.

Effective immediately EI numbers 236; 238; 307 will be DISCONTINUED.

Influenza and respiratory virus testing are being prioritized on samples from the following:

- ICU patients
- Hospitalized patients
- Patients pending admission
- Patients associated with an outbreak investigation with a specific EI number

Information Required:

Provide the following information on the ProvLab requisition so that the laboratory triage testing process can be effectively applied. Samples with incomplete information may not be tested.

- Patient demographics
- Ordering physician or nurse practitioner information
- Reporting address (Office or Clinic)
- Hospital facility and Unit
- If patient is “pending admission” – (write “pending admission”)
- EI number, when applicable, from a newly reported outbreak, obtained from the local Medical Officer of Health

Questions:

Contact the Virologist-on-Call:

Edmonton Laboratory – Phone: 780 407 7121 (ask for VOC) or 780 407 8822 UAH Switchboard (ask for VOC)	Calgary Laboratory – Phone: 403 944 1200 (ask for VOC)
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This bulletin was distributed to:

- ◆ Alberta Health & Wellness
- ◆ Alberta Health Services Pandemic Physician Communications
 - Province of Alberta – All Physicians
- ◆ Anita Hanrahan
 - CDC Nurses
- ◆ Brenda Hannah
 - Infection Prevention and Control, Alberta
- ◆ Infectious Disease Physicians - Edmonton, Calgary
- ◆ Laboratory Directors/Consultants of Alberta
- ◆ Laboratory Managers - Alberta, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
- ◆ Medical Officers of Health - Alberta, First Nations, Northwest Territories, Nunavut
- ◆ Medical Officers of Health - Alberta-Deputy/Associate