



Eastern Health

MEMORANDUM

FROM: PUBLIC HEALTH AND MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY
TO: ALL HEALTH CARE STAFF ACROSS NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
RE: INFLUENZA Testing Change in Practice - Effective March 6, 2018

As of February 24, 2018, the PHML has tested respiratory specimens for influenza from 2266 patients with 362 confirmed cases (positive rate, 16.0%). Of the 362 cases, 196 (54.1%) were typed as Influenza A, and 166 (45.9%) as Influenza B.

Of the 196 Influenza A cases, 51 have been sub-typed. 46 (90.2%) are H3 with 5 (9.8%) early season isolates being H1N1 2009, confirming H3 being predominant across the province.

The above trend is the same as seen across the country as well as the U.S.

PHML will continue to monitor and remain vigilant.

Effective immediately, given current volumes for test requests, lab testing for influenza will focus on acute patient care services. This includes:

- ANY INPATIENTS and ER patients awaiting admission

FOR OUTPATIENTS, testing will be limited to:

- Children <10 years of age
- Pregnant women with respiratory tract infections
- Patients with underlying cardiovascular/respiratory risks
- Recent international travel history
- OTHER OUTPATIENT, community outbreak investigations and after-hours influenza stat lab requests will need prior approval of the Microbiologist On Call

To better serve and facilitate the above:

IT IS CRITICAL THAT PATIENT INFORMATION AND CLINICAL INDICATIONS ARE CLEARLY INDICATED ON THE REQUISITION OR COMMUNICATED TO THE PHML THROUGH THE MICROBIOLOGIST ON CALL (777-6300).

SPECIMENS SUBMITTED WITH INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON THE REQUISITION WILL NOT BE TESTED.

For additional information, check www.publichealthlab.ca or contact the PHML.
Telephone: 709-777-6583.

Date: March 5, 2018

