



PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Physicians, Nurses and Health Care employees
RE: INFLUENZA Testing Change in Practice – Effective April 12, 2019
FROM: NL Provincial Public Health Microbiology Laboratory
DATE: April 10, 2019

Dear Medical, Nursing and Allied Health Colleagues,

In comparison to previous years, the influenza season has continued for much longer and has peaked much later. In addition, early in the season influenza A strains were of the H1N1 subtype and now are of the H3N2 subtype.

Given the current high volumes for respiratory test requests and the influenza strains circulating being established, attention will focus on acute patient care services. This includes:

- ANY INPATIENTS, including Long Term Care and Emergency Room patients awaiting admission
- CDC requests for outbreak management

FOR OUTPATIENTS, testing will be limited to:

- Children <10 years of age or adults > 75 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Patients with underlying cardiovascular/respiratory risks
- Recent international travel history
- OTHER OUTPATIENTS 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) or microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca

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

Please direct any questions or concerns to the Office of the Director, Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory Services (709-777-7233).

