



Newfoundland & Labrador

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Dr. LA Miller Centre, 100 Forest Road, St. John's, NL A1A 3Z9

(709) 777-6583

www.publichealthlab.ca

To: All Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Health Care Employees in NL

From: PHML Offices of the Director and Senior Operations Managers (Dr. George Zahariadis and Ms. Hedy Dalton-Kenny)

Date: July 16, 2020

CHANGE IN PROCESS

Beginning July 17, 2020 and until further notice, the full respiratory pathogen panel* will NOT be automatically performed in parallel for all COVID-19 virus test requests ordered for hospitalized, emergency room, long term care, chemotherapy and dialysis clients, healthcare workers and those > 75 years of age.

However, COVID-19 virus detection will ALWAYS be performed on NP respiratory specimens.

BACKGROUND AND RESOURCES FOR ORDERING PROVIDERS

The respiratory pathogen panel can be specifically requested at any time when your patient has a clinical context where identifying the respiratory pathogen etiology other than COVID-19 virus will change or impact clinical management, including isolation decisions.

In cases when the full respiratory panel is clinically indicated urgently during the hours of 2000 and 0400 seven days a week, please contact the Microbiologist on call (MOC) either through hospital locating (709 777 6300) or email, microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca to review the clinical context in order to coordinate after hours call back. The submitting care provider is responsible for arranging immediate shipment of the specimen(s) from their hospital site to the Public Health Microbiology Laboratory.

To re-iterate, COVID-19 virus testing will continue to be offered 24/7.

Please note there is NO CHANGE in the Meditech ordering process.

Finally, if a clinician after receiving their patient's COVID-19 virus test result ONLY and requires additional respiratory targets tested, please contact the MOC at the coordinates indicated above.

Questions around this memorandum can be directed to the PHML Director or Senior Operations Manager by contacting 709 777 7233.

