



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL ORDERING PROVIDERS

FROM: PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY, EASTERN HEALTH

DATE: December 5, 2022

RE: LABORATORY TESTING FOR INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS

Patients presenting with influenza-like illness (**ILI symptoms**) * will be tested for the full respiratory panel **where the information provided to the laboratory in the Meditech order or requisitions** indicates a high-risk population/setting or where clinical indication meets the following criteria:

1. Inpatients (including ER-IN)
2. Institutional/congregate living facility residents (indicate on the label: "LTC" for long-term care; "RC" for other residential care residents)
3. Children ≤ 2 years old in any setting
4. Children of any age seen in ER
5. Patients seen in ER with requisitions/orders specifying "Respiratory distress, potential admission."
6. Outbreak setting
7. Those not included in the above 1-6 with specific comments on order/requisition, such as:
 - Complicated medical history/multiple co-morbidities
 - Chronic pulmonary/lung disease/asthma
 - Critical respiratory failure
 - Severe cardiac disease
 - Chronic kidney disease on dialysis
 - Severely immunocompromised (post-transplant patients, patients on chemotherapy or other significant immunosuppressive therapy).

ILI symptoms* consist of a combination of symptoms that can include fever, chills, malaise, dry cough, loss of appetite, body aches, and nausea, typically in connection with a sudden onset of illness.

Where testing requests do not meet the criteria outlined or insufficient or incomplete information is provided, the laboratory will test for COVID-19 only.

Sincerely

Claudette Mosey
Regional Laboratory Manager

Yang Yu, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Interim Division Head/ Director

Public Health Microbiology Laboratory, Eastern Health

