**TO:** UPHS Physicians and Staff

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**DATE:** November 26, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Changes to Respiratory Pathogen Testing

Although seasonal influenza activity remains low, the frequency of testing for respiratory virus pathogens is steadily increasing. Details on seasonal flu activity can be found on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>). Please review testing information below, as there are some changes to ordering this season. Starting Wednesday, November 27, the following 3 orders will be available:

**Influenza AB & RSV with REFLEX to Respiratory Pathogen Profile (Px Code: FLUABRRPP)**

* *NEW TESTING ORDERABLE FOR THIS YEAR!*
* Samples are evaluated for Influenza A/B and RSV A/B in the Microbiology laboratory. Only negative samples are reflexed to the full panel in the Molecular Pathology laboratory (see below for details).
* Acceptable specimens: NP swab collected in viral transport media (Lawson number 195443).
* All samples for this reflex order should be sent directly to **Microbiology**. If Influenza/RSV is negative the sample will be automatically sent for the full panel.
* PLEASE NOTE: Automatic reflex testing for Influenza/RSV negative samples to the full respiratory virus panel for inpatients and patients in the Emergency Department and Pregnancy Evaluation Center will **no longer occur**. The clinical care team should use this order if they determine the full panel is warranted if the Influenza AB/RSV test is negative.
* For more info consult the Lab Test Services Guide (<https://www.testmenu.com/UPHS/Tests/1015661>).

**Respiratory Pathogen Profile (Px Code: C6005538)**

* Full Panel Testing (15 targets including Influenza A/B, RSV A/B, Parainfluenza 1-4, Adenovirus, Human Metapneumovirus, Coronavirus, Rhino/Enterovirus, Mycoplasma pneumonia, Chlamydia pneumonia)
* Performed in the Molecular Pathology Laboratory.
* Acceptable specimens: NP swab collected in viral transport media (Lawson number 195443), bronchoalveolar lavage, nasopharyngeal aspirate in a sterile container.
* Testing performed Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm and Saturday, 8am – 2pm. Sunday, 8am-2pm (anticipated start date December 22, 2019).
* Samples received after 5pm Monday – Friday and 2pm on the weekend and holidays will be resulted the following business day.
* All samples should be sent directly to **Central Receiving and Processing**.
* Contact the Molecular Pathology Lab with any questions at 215-662-6121.

**Influenza Type A/B and RSV RNA, Qualitative PCR (Px Code: C FLU PCR)**

* Influenza AB and RSV, only.
* Performed in the Microbiology Laboratory.
* Acceptable specimens: NP swab collected in viral transport media (Lawson number 195443).
* Daily, Sunday – Monday.
* All samples should be sent directly to **Microbiology**.
* For HUP and PPMC contact the Microbiology Lab with any questions at 215-662-3406. For PAH the Microbiology Lab can be reached at 215-829-3555