

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

Respiratory Season Testing

December 12, 2024

This information applies to: *All Island Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Long-Term Care Homes*

With the support of PEI Public Health, starting IMMEDIATELY, respiratory season will be defined as October 1st to May 30th each year. During respiratory season, respiratory virus testing will be available as per these guidelines:

COVID-19: Rapid antigen tests or IDNow

FLUVID/RSV PCR: includes COVID-19, FluA, FluB and RSV)

- Patients presenting with respiratory symptoms/influenza-like symptoms (ILI)
- Hospitalized patients with respiratory symptoms/influenza-like symptoms (ILI)
- Outbreak associated patients (up to 4 patients)

Respiratory Panel PCR: includes 23 respiratory pathogens (FLUVID panel plus Rhinovirus, Parainfluenza, etc)

- Patients in ICU
- Pediatric **inpatients** that are listed as “very sick” or “Peds Group”
- Immunocompromised patients with respiratory symptoms with negative FLUVID/RSV PCR.

If there is suspicion for **Mycoplasma or Pertussis**, please order Mycoplasma PCR and/or Pertussis PCR

*Please Note: all of the above tests are performed from a **NP swab**. Sputum and bronchial specimens are **not** suitable sample types for the above tests.

For more information, contact:

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Respiratory Testing Panels Details

FLUVID PCR (NP swab-During respiratory season this is our main test)

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
- Influenza A
- Influenza B
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Respiratory PCR (NP swab-only for ICU, very sick Pediatric in-patients, immunocompromised patients)

- Adenovirus
- Coronavirus 229E
- Coronavirus HKU1
- Coronavirus NL63
- Coronavirus OC43
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)
- Human Metapneumovirus
- Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus
- Influenza A, including subtypes H1, H1-2009, and H3
- Influenza B
- Parainfluenza Virus 1
- Parainfluenza Virus 2
- Parainfluenza Virus 3
- Parainfluenza Virus 4
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- ** Bordetella parapertussis (IS1001)
- ** Bordetella pertussis (ptxP)
- Chlamydia pneumoniae
- Mycoplasma pneumoniae

**Samples that test positive for B pertussis or B parapertussis on the Biofire panel must be confirmed on a separate platform as there is some cross reactivity and the sample may not be truly positive for either target. If Pertussis is the main reason for testing, this panel is not recommended, as per limitations from the manufacturer.

Viral panel PCR: send out test to Halifax on sputum or bronch specimens

Adenovirus,
Parainfluenza Virus
Enterovirus
Coronavirus (OC43, 229E, NL63)
Rhinovirus
Bocavirus
Human metapneumovirus.

Viral panel PCR does **NOT** test for influenza, RSV or Novel Coronavirus. Turnaround time for this test is approximately 2 weeks.

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