

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

COVID and Respiratory Screen Testing

April 22, 2021

This information applies to: QEH/PCH Emergency Departments

Please be advised that effective immediately, Provincial Laboratory Services will be curtailing respiratory screening.

As in previous years, the end of respiratory season signals the need to effectively utilize testing for Influenzae and other respiratory viruses. This week in Canada >24,000 samples for Influenzae were tested with only 2 positive cases identified. With no circulating virus in the country or the province, testing should be focused more towards COVID as opposed to expecting respiratory screening.

At this time, the laboratory will still provide testing for

- a) patients aged 0-5 presenting to the ED and there is concern for RSV
- b) admitted patients presenting with Influenzae like illness

STAT tests are provided at QEH Microbiology in dedicated windows 8 AM, 10 AM, noon, 2 PM, 4 PM, 6 PM, 8 PM, 10 PM, as well as overnight by Hematology at 1 AM, 3 AM and 5 AM.

PCH now offers STAT testing starting at 8 AM with reporting windows every 2 hours.

Please do not call the laboratory for results as the testing will take place within the above testing windows.

The Laboratory uses the GeneXpert for the majority of the rapid testing. Depending on workflow and number of samples received, the laboratory reserves the right to use the Biofire's expanded respiratory panel.

For more information, contact:

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