

Provincial Laboratory Services



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Health PEI
One Island Health System

Respiratory Screen (Covid 19/Flu A/B+RSV) Testing;

Respiratory Panel Criteria

May 2, 2023

This information applies to: Island Physicians and Nurse Practitioners

Respiratory virus season is now over for the season. The laboratory will still provide limited testing on a case by case basis. Starting May 3, 2022, the laboratory will be using the following updated testing criteria:

COVID

- Majority of testing can now be completed using home antigen kits available at several locations across PEI. If a person tests negative on an antigen test, it is recommended to repeat the test in 48hrs. Positive antigen tests do not require confirmatory testing.
- If a health care provider feels the patients' symptoms warrant COVID-19 testing with a negative point of care testing result (ID NOW or antigen test), a viral swab can be submitted to the laboratory for COVID-19 PCR.

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

- **RSV testing** will only be performed for patients aged 0-5 who present with influenzae-like illness in the ER or inpatient setting or as ordered by a pediatrician.
- **Influenza testing** will only be performed upon special request, such as for patients with influenzae-like illness and an exposure history to a known case, travel to an endemic area, or a negative test result with COVID-19.

Respiratory Panel PCR: 23 respiratory pathogens (COVID, Flu, RSV, Human Metapneumo, Parainfluenza, etc)

- Adult patients in the ICU.
- Pediatric patients listed as "very sick," or "Pediatric Group" or "Pediatric oncology".
- At direction of CPHO or Medical Microbiologist.

For more information, contact:

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