

PHSA Laboratories

BCCDC Public Health Laboratory

September 30, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

RE: Respiratory Virus Testing – Fall/Winter 2020

COVID-19 testing will be performed on all clients (outpatients and inpatients) with compatible symptoms, contacts of those infected, and when requested by the MHO.

As of October 5, 2020 **in addition to COVID-19 testing, FLUA/B/RSV will be performed on individuals as per routine seasonal practice. In some cases, FLUA/B/RSV and COVID-19 may be simultaneously tested for based on the test used at local sites, however FLUA/B/RSV testing is only being recommended for:**

- (i) Those who are pregnant,
- (ii) Those in a Long Term Care (LTC) facility or when an outbreak is considered,
- (iii) Those hospitalized or those sick enough to be hospitalized,
- (iv) Children <5 years please indicate if FLUA/B/RSV testing is required (in addition to COVID-19 testing).

If FLUA/B/RSV is required, either the provider or the submitting laboratory will need to inform the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory.

If the FLUA/B/RSV and COVID-19 PCR are negative, samples will be further tested using a multiplex respiratory panel for a wide range of respiratory pathogens for the indications outlined above, or on special request.

Please note, only one sample needs to be collected for COVID-19, FLUA/B/RSV and multiplex testing.

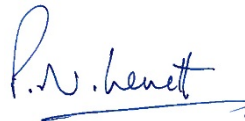
For other testing details, please refer to the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory test menu:

<http://www.elabhandbook.info/phsa/>.

Sincerely,



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