

November 25th, 2022

## Announcement – Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Update

### Introduction of an Expanded Respiratory-plex PCR test – November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022.

The KSHC Microbiology Laboratory is introducing an expanded respiratory virus PCR test that will test for **Rhinovirus/OC43/Metapneumovirus/Parainfluenza** in addition to FluA/FluB/RSV/SARS-CoV-2. All requests for COVID-19, Influenza A/B or RSV received on or after November 30<sup>th</sup> 2022 will be tested using the expanded multiplex PCR assay and all eight viruses will be reported in the patient care system and in the Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS).

There is no change to the process for ordering testing. The same order code (RESPCR) that is currently used when requesting COVID-19, Influenza A/B, & RSV testing now includes the additional 4 viral targets previously mentioned.

Please note that the Turn-Around-Times (TAT) for the expanded multiplex PCR test will be equivalent to the current FluA/B/RSV/SARS-CoV-2 PCR test being offered at KHSC. Should you have any questions about this test please feel free to contact me using the address below.

Sincerely,

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