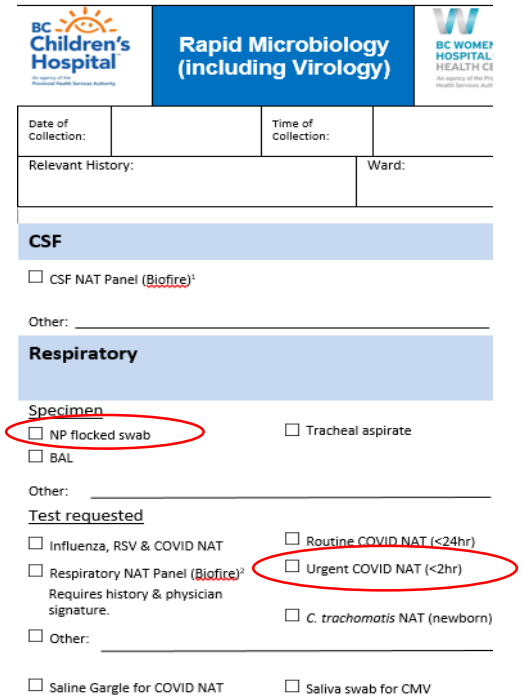


Dear colleagues,

With the re-emergence of RSV and potentially other respiratory viruses including influenza amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we propose a new testing strategy for fall/winter of 2021/22, starting September 20, 2021. This strategy will be revisited later in the season based on changing epidemiology and clinical needs; Urgent COVID testing will be replaced by urgent influenza/RSV/COVID when surveillance data indicates re-emergence of influenza. Please note estimated turnaround times are during current lab operating hours from 08:00 to 22:00 on weekdays, and 08:00 to 19:00 on weekends.

- A) For women who **need admission** AND have symptoms of acute respiratory infection or febrile illness NYD:
- Submit a *nasopharyngeal flocked swab* (NP swab) and request the “**Urgent COVID NAT**”. (See picture)
 - Requisitions can be found on the “eLab Handbook” website (link [here](#)), which should also come up with a Google search.
 - We will perform the urgent COVID NAT as quickly as possible, and results should be available within 2 hours during lab hours



- B) For women who **do not need admission**, are immunocompetent, AND have mild acute illness where COVID testing is indicated:
- We recommend the **routine** COVID-19 test.
 - Nasopharyngeal flocked swabs or saline gargle are the specimens of choice
 - For how to collect NP swab in adults, here is a link to the NEJM instructional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVJNWefmHjE>
 - For how to collect saline gargle in adults, here is a link to the PHSA instructional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9xonNTtApY>
 - The routine COVID-19 test is performed 2-4 times per day, with a turnaround time of <24 hours.
 - To order the routine COVID-19 test, please select “**Routine COVID NAT**” on the requisition.

We anticipate that these more rapid results will assist the clinical teams in patient management and placement, and use of additional precautions. There are likely to be other situations where urgent testing for COVID and other respiratory viruses is required. Please feel free to page the microbiologist-on-call for assistance via 604-875-2161.

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--|
| Peter Tilley MD FRCPC | local 6694 | ptilley@cw.bc.ca |
| Dave Goldfarb MD FRCPC | local 7688 | david.goldfarb@cw.bc.ca |
| Ghada Al Rawahi MD FRCPC | local 2394 | galrawahi@cw.bc.ca |
| Jocelyn Srigley MD FRCPC | local 5208 | jocelyn.srigley@cw.bc.ca |
| Lynne Li MD FRCPC | local 6650 | lynne.li@cw.bc.ca |

Respiratory Viral Test Summary, B.C. Women's Hospital:

| Clinical Situation: | Specimen: | Test to order: | Turnaround time (during lab hours): |
|---|---|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Admitted , AND Have acute respiratory illness or fever | Nasopharyngeal flocced swab | Urgent COVID* | < 2 hr |
| Non-admitted , AND Have mild acute illness consistent with COVID-19 | Nasopharyngeal flocced swab OR Saline gargle | Routine COVID | < 24 hr |

* Will be replaced by urgent influenza/RSV/COVID testing when surveillance data indicates re-emergence of influenza.

British Columbia Children's and Women's Hospitals
Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine
DIVISION OF MICROBIOLOGY and VIROLOGY
Tel: (604) 875-2345 (ext. 7460)

Version History

| DATE | DOCUMENT NUMBER and TITLE | ACTION TAKEN |
|--------------|--|---|
| 22-Sept-2021 | C-0506-14-62569 C&W Respiratory Virus Testing Guideline For Adults | Developed by Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Approved by Professional Practice Director |

Disclaimer

This document is intended for use within BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals only. Any other use or reliance is at your sole risk. The content does not constitute and is not in substitution of professional medical advice. Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) assumes no liability arising from use or reliance on this document. This document is protected by copyright and may only be reprinted in whole or in part with the prior written approval of PHSA.