

<b>Date:</b>	April 14, 2020
<b>To:</b>	All Medical staff and Northern Health Clinical Leadership
<b>From:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Penny Anguish, Northern Interior Chief Operating Officer and Northern Health EOC Operational Lead</li><li>• Lisette Vienneau, Regional Director Diagnostic Services</li><li>• Medical leads: Dr. Kamran Azar and Dr. Justin Lo</li></ul>
<b>Re:</b>	<b>FLU Testing Restrictions Effective April 14</b>

The influenza season is ending and current positive rates for FLU A/B and RSV have dropped from 20% to ~2% across the province.

Provincial guidelines recommend not testing for FLU/RSV on outpatients and to stop FLU testing on all COVID samples.

The provincial guidelines are as follows:

1. Routine testing of FLU/RSV is no longer indicated for outpatients except those who continue to be at high risk for influenza e.g. admission to hospital appears imminent, patients who are immunocompromised, have renal disease, or are pregnant with respiratory disease. Diagnosis must be specifically indicated on the requisition in order that FLU testing is performed.
2. FLU/RSV testing will continue to be available for all inpatients, pediatric patients, and residents of long term care facilities.
3. FLU testing will not automatically be done on COVID samples.

Northern Health Lab Services will implement these guidelines on Tuesday, April 14.