

CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY

SARS-CoV-2/Influenza A & B/RSV Quadruplex GeneXpert® Testing of Symptomatic Hospital Inpatients to Start on October 28, 2024 for the 2024-2025 Respiratory Virus Season**October 18, 2024****Background Information:**

Vaccine-preventable respiratory viruses infecting humans follow predictable annual patterns. In Manitoba, influenza A, influenza B, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) appear annually in a well-established, sequential, and overlapping pattern; circulating from mid to late October (autumn) to late April (spring). SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) currently continues to cause infections year-round. Due to the seasonality of influenza A, influenza B, and RSV, sentinel hospital laboratories alter their respiratory virus testing algorithms for fiscal and diagnostic testing stewardship reasons.

Update:

Shared Health hospital laboratories currently provide GeneXpert® SARS-CoV-2 only testing following the current provincial algorithm (<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-testing-table.pdf>). Quadruplex testing is currently available from Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) upon request.

Starting October 28, 2024, Shared Health hospital laboratories will replace their current GeneXpert® SARS-CoV-2 only testing with GeneXpert® Quadruplex (SARS-CoV-2/Influenza A & B/RSV) PCR testing for all qualifying samples following the current provincial algorithm (<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-testing-table.pdf>).

As a reminder, GeneXpert® PCR testing at Shared Health laboratories is performed on nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs for the following patients:

- **Symptomatic patients admitted to hospital**
- **Symptomatic patients** in an Emergency Department (ED), Urgent Care Centre or Obstetrical Triage where **a consult for admission has been initiated or who have been designated for transfer to another facility or Personal Care Home**
- **Symptomatic patients** in an ED with **severe comorbidities** who are at a **high risk of deterioration and who will benefit from therapeutic initiation in the ED**
- Asymptomatic organ transplant patients (donors and recipients pre-transplantation)

NP swabs collected from other patient types or for whom the required information is not provided on the requisition will be forwarded to CPL for testing.

Shared Health hospital laboratories will return to GeneXpert® SARS-CoV-2 only testing in spring 2025 when the conventional respiratory virus season (influenza A, influenza B, RSV) ends.

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