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April 9, 2015

Dear Practitioner,

**Re: Discontinuation of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Rapid Antigen Testing at Westman Lab (WL) Site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Diagnostic Services Manitoba (DSM) after Monday, April 13, 2015.**

In collaboration with Cadham Provincial Laboratory, the WL site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, Diagnostic Services Manitoba, has provided RSV testing using the Rapid Antigen Test method from January 12, 2015 to the present. The objective of this testing was to provide rapid on-site RSV testing for in-house and referred in respiratory specimens.

The RSV Rapid Antigen Test is only used during the RSV season, related to the sensitivity and specificity of the test. As the RSV season has now ended, RSV rapid antigen testing at the WL site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will be discontinued. Testing outside of RSV season requires a nucleic acid detection or cell culture method, currently only available at Cadham Provincial Laboratory. Therefore, starting April 13, 2015 specimens requiring an investigation for RSV should be sent directly to Cadham Provincial Laboratory using a Cadham Provincial Laboratory requisition.

It is anticipated that the Westman site Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will again offer rapid RSV testing next RSV season (winter 2015 – spring 2016).

Yours truly,



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