

To: Clients of URMCLabs

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RE: Changes in Respiratory Virus Testing

Date: June 6, 2011

Effective June 6, 2011, the Clinical Virology Laboratory will be phasing out routine specific testing for Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus. The numbers of positive results have been on the decline for several weeks, with no Influenza positives since 5/19/11. RSV numbers are also waning. We will be performing Influenza and RSV PCR and antigen testing three times a week, for two more weeks. We will then move to PCR and culture surveillance testing until the next wave of activity emerges. Please contact the lab supervisor at 275-1342 for testing outside these guidelines.

We follow the reappearance of Influenza and RSV by monitoring national, regional and local surveillance data. Routine specific testing for Influenza and RSV will be reinstated when these viruses are present regionally. We will issue our Winter Virus Update when routine testing resumes.

Further information can be found at the websites listed below:

Intranet URMCLabs: FLUsource (under "Provider Guidance", SMH Virus Memo)

Intranet Highland Hospital: FLUsource

[http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pathology\\_lab\\_medicine/clinical\\_labs/news\\_publications/provider\\_notifications.cfm](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pathology_lab_medicine/clinical_labs/news_publications/provider_notifications.cfm)

For questions and additional information, please contact the Virus Lab supervisor, Cindy Mellen: 585-275-7801, E-mail [Cynthia.Mellen@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Mellen@urmc.rochester.edu)

For Highland Hospital, please contact the Microbiology lab Section head, Woody Cichanowicz: 585-341-6695, E-mail [Woody.Cichanowicz@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Woody.Cichanowicz@urmc.rochester.edu)