

# Memo

Date: 20 May 2024

From: Dr Anja Werno

## 2024 Winter Respiratory Virus Testing

As COVID-19 is transitioning to endemic status, our respiratory guidelines endeavour to include all circulating respiratory viruses known to commonly cause severe disease.

Refer to the [Inpatient Respiratory Virus Streaming Guide](#)

COVID-19 PCR testing should only be considered for patients with new/acute respiratory symptoms,

- being admitted to an open bay/multi-bedroom or
- being admitted to BMTU, CHOC, NICU or ICU (or immunosuppressed\*)

\* Severely immune compromised includes: patients on chemotherapy, solid organ transplant patients, current CHOC/BMTU patients, patients on rituximab or similar agents.

Patients being admitted to single rooms with acute respiratory symptoms do not need to be tested, unless needed to guide patient treatment decisions.

From the 22<sup>nd</sup> May the laboratory turnaround time for all COVID-19 PCR results is up to 8 hours.

**State the rationale for testing under the clinical details section of the laboratory request form.**

Inappropriate requests or those without clinical details will be rejected.

If urgent testing is required, please call Microbiologist to discuss.

The laboratory is monitoring respiratory virus activity and will introduce 4-plex testing (COVID-19, Influenza A/B, RSV) when the season begins. A further communication will be issued at this point.