

Infectious Disease Diagnostics in the Geisinger Health System

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WHAT'S CIRCULATING? (Refer to Figure 1)

Top Respiratory Viruses are influenza A, B, and RSV
Circulating influenza strains are mostly H3 strains.

DON'T FORGET

Indeterminant results: As of February 6, 2017, Microbiology is no longer placing phone calls to out-patient providers for "indeterminant" results. Indeterminant results will be phoned for in-patients.

NEWS YOU CAN USE: PCR from Blood Cultures

There appears to be some confusion related to the BCID (PCR from Blood Culture) results for staphylococci. **As a reminder:**

"*Staphylococcus* species positive" DOES NOT usually indicate *S. aureus*. This result is ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY associated with coagulase-negative staphylococci (CONS). Exceptions to this association are very rare.

Staphylococcus aureus = *Staphylococcus aureus*.

MIXED CULTURES DO OCCUR - in which case you may see a result of *Staphylococcus aureus* positive AND *Staphylococcus* species positive. These species can co-exist.

The *mecA* result DOES NOT exclusively link to *S. aureus*. Results reported as *Staphylococcus* species are often *mecA* positive and represent methicillin resistant coagulase- negative staphylococci (e.g. MRSE). This report does NOT require isolation precautions UNLESS there is a concurrent *S. aureus* reported in a possibly mixed infection.

Staphylococcus aureus positive paired with *mecA* positive is considered MRSA and does require isolation until further testing can determine if there is a mixture of MSSA with MRSE. (See Figure 2)



SUMMARY

Flu A/B RSV are top respiratory pathogens

No more indeterminant calls for Out-patients

Check BCID results closely

Check out 10X Essentials on YAMMER
https://www.yammer.com/geisinger.edu/#/threads/inGroup?type=in_group&feedId=8104830&view=all

If you have any questions, please contact the Doctoral Directors, Donna Wolk, Ph.D., D(ABMM) at 570-271-7467 or Raquel Martinez Ph.D., D(ABMM) at 570-214-6587.



Figure 1: Viruses in GML Regions
 56% positive of 921 Samples, week ending 2/5/2016
 Median Collect to Result for ED and In-patients is 2.54 hr

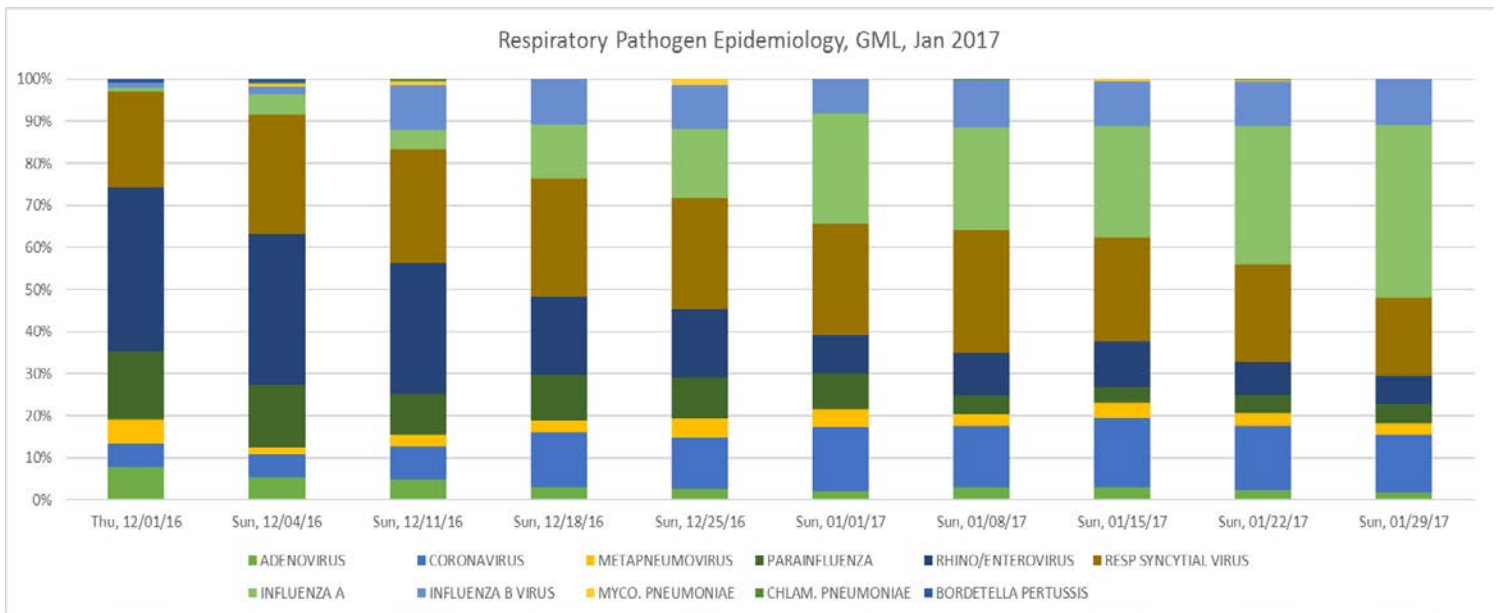


Figure 2: BCID Results for Staphylococci (Isolation Actions are in Blue)

