

## Infectious Disease Diagnostics

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### The overall percent of influenza is falling!!!

We would like to review the results of equivocal PCR testing for respiratory viruses and any other PCR test.



### What do equivocal PCR results mean?

Equivocal PCR results can mean that

1. There are interfering substances
2. That the viral load in the specimen is too low to achieve the assay cut-off for positive specimens
3. That there is a PCR malfunction

### If I receive an equivocal result on a patient sample, what should I do?

1. Re-evaluate the need for testing based on current clinical scenarios
2. If warranted, submit a new sample for testing (Note: If equivocal results are returned twice, there is likely little value in re-testing by PCR again. If warranted, culture or other methods may be required).

### Is there ever a need to repeat a positive test?

In almost all cases, repeating an already positive test is of little clinical value and will likely not be reimbursed by insurance or other mechanisms of reimbursement.

Do NOT repeat a test that is already positive, viruses can be shed in samples for periods of time after the infection.

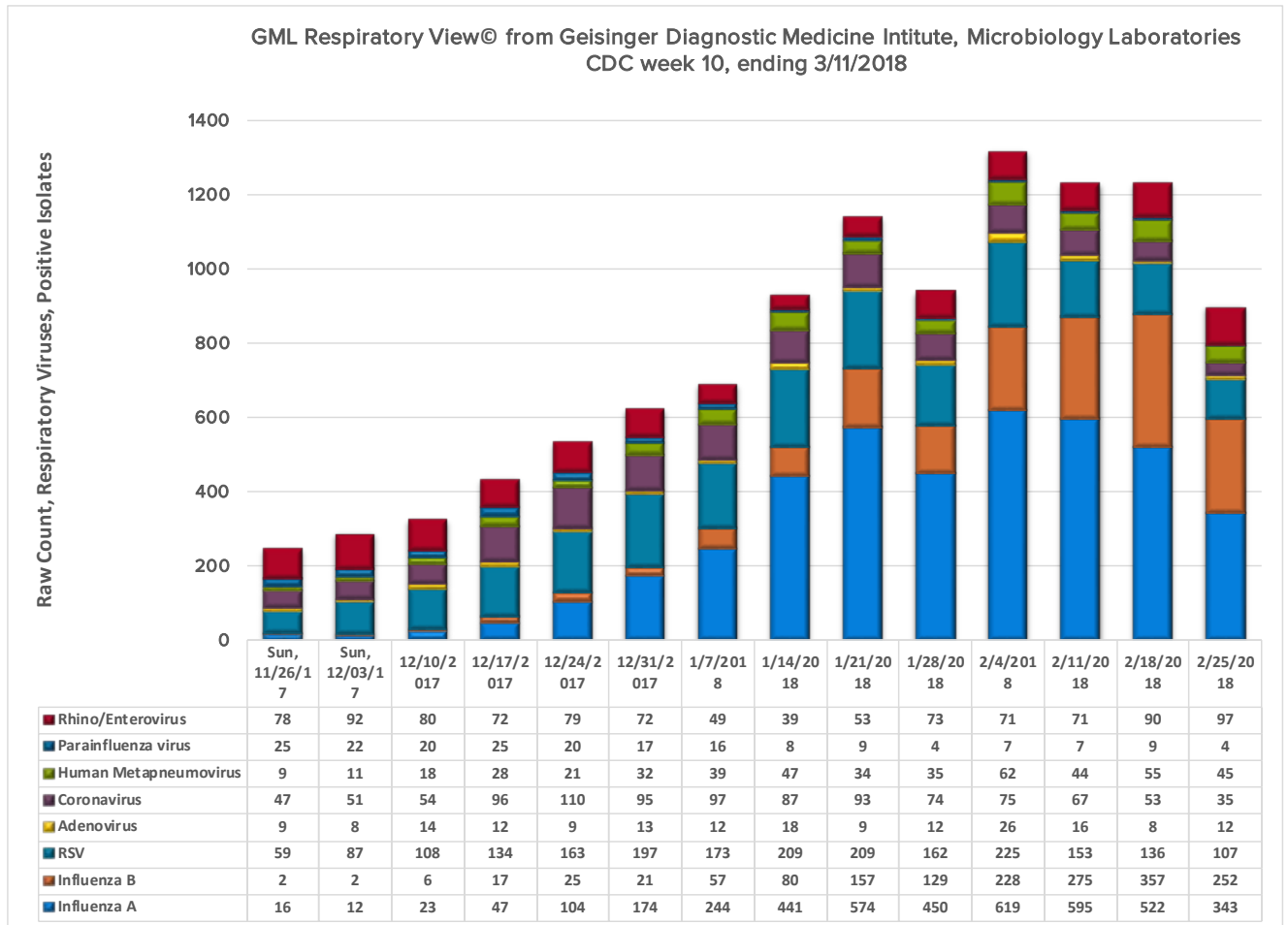
In rare cases, an out-patient FluA/B RSV may be negative and the patient is then unexpectedly admitted and require the full respiratory panel for appropriate isolation OR there is a need to identify viruses to avoid an invasive procedure. For the latter, please contact our microbiology manager, Donna Young (570) 271-6015 to work through billing processes for your out-patients in need.

### REMINDERS

- Continue to order the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPPCR) for in-patients and high risk out-patients
- Flu swabs should be obtained in the office or clinic. Do not direct patients to the laboratory or ED for these collections. Please contact client services for supplies.

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### Welcome Spring: Both Flu A and B are finally declining



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.