NOTICE OF CHANGE OF SERVICE

DATE: November 10, 2008

TO: Housestaff and PCN Physicians, Faculty, and Nursing Personnel

FROM: Christopher R. Polage, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology
Director, Microbiology Laboratory

RE: Respiratory Viral Testing Changes Effective November 24, 2008

In an effort to simplify and improve the sensitivity and specificity of respiratory viral testing at UCDHS, multiple changes will be made effective November 24, 2008.

1) RSV IMMUNOASSAY (MICVI00012) and INFLUENZA IMMUNOASSAY (MICP000004) will no longer be offered due to inadequate sensitivity and diminished “out-of-season” specificity.

2) Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) tests for RSV (RSV IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE, MICVI00013) and Influenza A/B (INFLUENZA IMMUNOFLUORESCENCE, MICVI00016) will be combined into one test (RESPIRATORY VIRUS DFA & CULTURE, MICG000069) that will reflexively include viral cell culture when DFA is negative. When DFA is positive (RSV or Influenza A/B), culture will not be performed. DFA specimens will be batch processed twice daily with results available late morning / early afternoon and late afternoon / early evening, 7 days per week. Acceptable specimens for this test will be limited to Nasopharyngeal swab, aspirate, or wash / lavage, Endotracheal aspirate (ETA) or Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL). This test will replace the current EPIC order panel NASAL WASH RSV AND FLU PANEL.

3) Respiratory viral culture will continue to be available alone (CULTURE RESPIRATORY, VIRAL (MICG000027) or CULTURE ENT, VIRAL (MICG000017)) or as a reflex test to respiratory viral DFA (RESPIRATORY VIRUS DFA & CULTURE (MICG000069)).

4) Sputum, throat swab, oropharyngeal swab / wash and dry NP swabs (e.g., swab NOT submitted in viral transport media) will no longer be acceptable sources for CULTURE RESPIRATORY, VIRAL (MICG000027), CULTURE ENT, VIRAL (MICG000017) or RESPIRATORY VIRUS DFA & CULTURE (MICG000069). For detection of HSV or VZV infection of the oropharynx, CULTURE HERPES SIMPLEX (MICV100006) and/or CULTURE VARICELLA ZOSTER (MICV100005) should be ordered.

These changes are intended to improve patient care. Please call the Microbiology Laboratory at 734-2544 with any questions.

APPROVED BY: ________________________________
Lydia Howell, M.D., Professor and Acting Chair
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

cc: Bettye Andreos        Alan Siefkin, MD        Ralph Green, MD
    Carol Robinson, BRN    Dean Blumberg, MD      Robert Taylor
    Richard Pollard, MD    Phillip Raimondi, MD    Darrell O’Sullivan