**To:** All D-H providers (physicians, associate providers and GME)

**From:** Isabella W. Martin, MD Medical Director of Microbiology

**Date:** January 26, 2022

**RE:** Shortage of Respiratory Panel by PCR Test Kits impacts Outpatient Testing

**Situation:**  Testing reagents for the Respiratory Panel by PCR [LAB4063] are now on allocation from the manufacturer.

**Background:** The Respiratory Panel by PCR offers testing for an expanded array of respiratory pathogens. At DHMC and the CGP, this test should be used for diagnosing respiratory infections in critically ill or immunocompromised **inpatients or those being admitted from the Emergency Department** (the populations for whom this test has been shown to make the most meaningful impact to clinical care).

Due to supply chain limitations and effective immediately, the test manufacturer cannot supply our normal allocation of testing kits.

**Assessment:** Effective immediately, we must use test reagents judiciously, reserving them for our sickest patients.

**Recommendation:**Going forward, any orders placed for Respiratory Panel by PCR on outpatients will be automatically converted to COVID PCR and FluA/B/RSV testing.

**For questions or additional information, please contact: Ella Martin, MD at isabella.w.martin@hitchcock.org**

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