Updates to Microbiology Respiratory Pathogen Testing:

Effective Tuesday October 8, 2019, Microbiology implemented a faster, more sensitive, and broader next-generation respiratory pathogen panel (RPPCR). The new panel includes *Bordetella parapertussis* in addition to *B. pertussis* and other viral and bacterial targets.

**Whooping Cough, Case Definition (Bordetella pertussis)**

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥2 weeks with at least 1 of the following signs or symptoms is the clinical case definitions:

- Paroxysms of coughing, OR
- Inspiratory “whoop,” OR
- Vomiting from coughing hard, OR
- Apnea (with or without cyanosis) for infants <1 year of age

Confirmation occurs by positive PCR assay.

**Bordetella species**

- *B. parapertussis* causes a pertussis-like illness that is generally milder than pertussis, likely because the bacteria do not produce pertussis toxin. In addition, *B. holmesii* and *B. bronchiseptica* can cause significant coughing.

- *Bordetella parapertussis* will automatically be tested in the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPPCR). Please discontinue placing separate orders for the detection of *Bordetella parapertussis* from respiratory specimens.

- The new test turn-around time is 15 minutes faster than the previous version and has improved sensitivity/specificity for multiple targets (mainly influenza typing and adenovirus).

- The new assay should not affect operational workflows, such as test ordering and sample collecting. Please continue to collect nasopharyngeal (preferred specimen type) specimens for respiratory pathogen testing in Universal Transport Medium (UTM) and transport to the laboratory on ice.

**NOTE:**

*B. pertussis, B. parapertussis, B. holmesii, and B. bronchiseptica* can cause severe coughs. *B. pertussis and B. parapertussis can be detected by PCR*

Flu A, H3 strain, has been isolated 4 times over the last 2 months.

Out-patient

Check out 10X Essentials on YAMMER
https://www.yammer.com/
CDC Week 36-41 Respiratory Epidemiology: Rhinovirus/enterovirus predominate.

Influenza A cases are **extremely rare**; 4 cases in the last 2 months, all influenza A H3 strains.

GML Laboratory will launch the Out-patient Flu/RSV panel (ABRP) on Nov 1, 2019.