NEW VIROLOGY SCHEME (from April 2017)

Scheme for Molecular detection of respiratory viruses

Respiratory infections are the leading cause of mortality worldwide with around 6% of all deaths. Several studies have highlighted that behind respiratory infections, a cohort of infectious agents are involved, of which viruses are the most common cause.

Viruses known to cause acute respiratory infections include:

- Influenza virus
- Respiratory syncytial virus
- Adenovirus
- Human enterovirus
- Rhinovirus
- Human metapneumovirus
- Bocavirus
- Human coronavirus
- Human parainfluenza viruses

UK NEQAS for Microbiology will be offering a proficiency testing scheme from April 2017 to include:

- Three distributions per year containing 4 specimens
- Each distribution will contain specimens to be tested for respiratory viruses (above) including Influenza A, B and RSV.
- Circulating viral strains and vaccine strains will be included
- Specimens supplied as freeze-dried samples (simulated nasopharyngeal aspirate)
- Country-specific performance will be available where there are greater than 10 participants in a country
- Three week period for examination and reporting results
- The intended results will appear on our web site (www.ukneqasmicro.org.uk) the day after the closing date and reports aim to be issued within 2 weeks

For further information, please contact the Virology Scheme Manager at the above address or alternatively Tel: +44 (0) 20 8905 9890 or E-mail: organiser@ukneqasmicro.org.uk