

New Algorithm for Respiratory Pathogens PCR Testing



Express Flu/RSV PCR testing must be completed prior to ordering Respiratory Pathogens, PCR.

Effective February 11th, 2019 St. Luke's Laboratory will require that an Express Flu/RSV PCR test be completed prior to ordering Respiratory Pathogens Panel Testing.

In an effort to reduce unnecessary testing, Respiratory Pathogens PCR testing will only be performed on patients that have had Flu/RSV PCR testing completed first in the same visit or within the previous 7 days. This algorithm is meant to first rule out the most common causes of respiratory illness during Influenza season before more extensive testing can be performed. The specimen requirements for both the Express Flu/RSV test and the Respiratory Pathogens PCR test are the same and, if desired, providers will be able to add-on Respiratory Pathogens PCR testing to the same specimen once the Flu/RSV test is complete.

Exceptions to this algorithm will be made for hospitalized patients in Intensive Care or 2W-Oncology.

In addition, Respiratory Pathogens PCR testing will no longer be available for non-ED outpatients

PCR testing will be performed by St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory only. All off-site clinics that currently perform testing for Influenza and RSV will continue to perform the enzyme immunoassay test.

Sample Type:

- Nasopharyngeal swab specimen in Universal Transport Medium (UTM).

Test Names:

- INFLUENZA RSV PCR, Nasopharyngeal (Test Code: FLURSVPCR)
- Respiratory Pathogens, PCR (Test Code: RESPNP)

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Microbiology Laboratory at 218-249-5319 or Dr. Jon Steinhauer at 218-249-5749.