Coronavirus 2019

The Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute, in conjunction with Medical Operations and Infectious Diseases, has implemented the SARS-CoV-2 assay for qualitative detection of the COVID-19 virus in respiratory specimens from individuals with the appropriate signs and symptoms.

**Test Ordering**

For patients being evaluated for a respiratory viral illness, order the COVID-19 Coronavirus Panel. This order-set automatically includes a test for FLRSV (Rapid PCR Assay for Influenza/RSV) and COVID (Coronavirus 2019).

The COVID-19 assay is performed in all cases regardless of the FLU and RSV results.

**Specimen Collection and Transport**

The COVID-19 Coronavirus Panel requires one specimen collection: One nasopharyngeal specimen should be collected with a flexible mini-tip flocked swab and placed in UTM. Both the FLU/RSV and COVID tests can be performed from the same specimen. Collection devices available include Lawson # 288576 or Lawson #494611.

**Transport at refrigeration temperature on cold packs or wet ice.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swab or Lower Respiratory Specimen Stability</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerated (2-8 °C)</td>
<td>72 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frozen (≤-70°C)</td>
<td>Up to 30 days</td>
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**Please note:** Ensure lid is on tight. Specimen sample is to be packed in a double bag with the requisition in the outermost pocket and hand delivered to your local lab. **Specimens should not be transported through the pneumatic tube system.**

**Result Reporting:** Laboratory Client Services will notify ordering providers of any positive COVID-19 test results. Cleveland Clinic will report COVID-19 test results to the Ohio Department of Health.

**Questions?** Contact Dr. Susan Harrington at 216.445.2218, Dr. Gary Procop at 216.444.5879, Karen Mayher at 216.445-1506, or Colleen Starkey at 216.445.3309.