

## Provider Quick Guide

# COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus testing

December 2020 version

### Current prevalence of respiratory viruses

SARS-CoV-2 is the predominant respiratory virus at this time. Influenza and RSV are currently at interseasonal levels and are not expected to increase significantly in the near future, so testing for influenza and/or RSV is discouraged at this time.

When COVID-19 is suspected, please use your clinical judgment to determine the need for influenza and/or RSV testing. Be aware that rhino/enterovirus is currently circulating in the community, but diagnostic testing for this common cold virus is often not medically necessary because detection does not typically change the clinical care of the patient.

### EPIC ordering

Singular influenza and RSV orders have been removed from EPIC Facility and Preference Lists at all Ohio locations as of December 1, 2020. These standalone orders also will be removed from order panels and order sets with the exception of existing COVID-19 panels.

### Pediatric COVID-19 Order Packages (symptomatic patients)

- Flu + RSV order is selected by default and can be deselected

### Adult COVID-19 Order Packages (symptomatic patients)

- In emergency department and inpatient areas, flu and/or RSV tests are an optional selection.
- In outpatient areas, flu and RSV orders are not currently available but will be made available when flu/RSV become more prevalent.

### Preferred specimen types

- Ambulatory patients: anterior nares swab (NS) in saline transport medium
- ED and inpatients: nasopharyngeal swab (NP) in transport medium
  - Saline transport medium used at Main
  - Universal transport medium (UTM) or viral transport medium (VTM) used at Regional sites

### Add-on test requests

- Add-on requests for flu or RSV are not currently accepted for inpatients, outpatients, or ED patients. If a patient with viral respiratory symptoms tests negative for COVID-19, then please collect another specimen for repeat COVID-19 testing and any additional flu or RSV testing (ED or inpatient only) if clinically indicated.
- High-risk inpatients or ED patients that qualify for respiratory viral panel (RVP) testing can have the RVP added onto an NP specimen that has been tested for SARS-CoV-2.

For other tests that require UTM or VTM, please see the site-specific guidelines:

<http://portals.ccf.org/plmi/EDN-Master/Announcements/ArtMID/132300/ArticleID/33089/Fall-Respiratory-Specimen-Collection-and-Transport-Guidelines>