

RESPIRATORY VIRUS PANEL (RPCR)

Orderable – RPCR

Turnaround Time: Spring/Summer: 4 days
Fall/Winter: 24 Hours

Alternate Name(s):

Influenza Virus
Flu Screen

Specimen Type and Collection Information:

Specimen Type	Collection Information
Nasopharyngeal Swab	Insert flexible, fine-shafted swab into nasopharynx, rotate in circular manner to collect cellular material. Place swab in viral transport media
Nasopharyngeal Aspirate	Using mucous collection device, insert appropriately sized catheter nasally into posterior nasopharynx. Apply suction, using intermittent suction as catheter is withdrawn. If necessary use small amount of viral transport media to wash sample out of tubing. Transfer aspirated sample to a sterile container.
Bronchial Alveolar Lavage (BAL)	Collect a minimum volume of 1 mL of BAL. Transfer sample to a sterile container



Laboratory:
Microbiology



Requisition:
Electronic Order



Method of Analysis:
PCR (polymerase chain reaction)



Test Schedule:
Spring/Summer:
Three times per week
Fall/Winter:
Daily

Panel Targets:

SARS-CoV-2, Influenza A/B, RSV, Parainfluenza 1/2/3/4, Adenovirus, Human Metapneumovirus, Enterovirus / Rhinovirus and seasonal Coronavirus.

Test Schedule:

Algorithms will be applied on April 1st (spring/summer algorithm) or November 1st (fall/winter algorithm) of each year, or when the respiratory virus epidemiology warrants it.

Fall/Winter Algorithm, testing eligibility:

- Hospital patient settings
- Outbreak investigations at the direction of the Public Health Unit
- COVID-19 Assessment Centre and other community-based encounters will continue to be eligible for SARS-CoV-2 testing only.
- Any additional SARS-CoV-2 request on the same specimen will be canceled, including GXRVP and COVID or COVIDSCR.



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Spring/Summer Algorithm, testing eligibility:

- Testing will be performed on symptomatic patients in Critical Care Areas (CCTC, MSICU, PCCU/NICU), babies <60 days old, cystic fibrosis patients, C7 inpatients, Coroner requests, as well on all BAL specimens from inpatients.
- RPCR requests from other patient care areas will be cancelled, reordered and processed as COVID Diagnostic (COVID) unless approved by the Microbiologist on-call.
- As RPCR testing is batched 3 times per week, patients requiring timelier results for SARS-CoV-2 should be tested using the COVID Diagnostic orderable (COVID). A separate specimen must be submitted, no test add-ons will be approved. If COVID and RPCR are ordered on the same swab, COVID will be canceled and the sample will be processed for RPCR ONLY.

Storage and Shipment:

Specimen must be received within 24 hours and should be stored at 4°C as soon as possible following collection. If the transport time exceeds 24 hours, the specimen will only be tested if appropriate.