

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Regional Medical Laboratory Clients
FROM: Kat Herman, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SM, Manager of Microbiology
 Gerald C. Miller, PhD, Chief of Microbiology and Immunology
DATE: January 4, 2018
SUBJECT: **Flu and RSV Testing Update**

Regional Medical Laboratory is pleased to announce the implementation of a new rapid methodology for detection of influenza virus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) this season. The new testing method utilizes immunofluorescence technology to enhance detection of Influenza and RSV antigens. This test will meet all new FDA reclassification requirements for rapid Influenza testing. Furthermore, third party research has shown this test to have an overall sensitivity of 94%¹ for detecting Influenza A, when compared to cell culture (the gold standard).

Test sensitivity is optimal with minimally diluted specimens. Therefore, the preferred specimen for rapid flu testing is a **mini-tip nylon flocked swab in 1mL UTM** (item 406C from Materials Management) or a **saline nasopharyngeal aspirate/wash with the minimal amount of saline required**. Note: the eSwab is no longer acceptable for flu testing.

Specimen Stability for Flu Testing

	Recommended Storage Condition	
	2°C to 8°C	25°C
Copan Universal Transport Medium (UTM)	72 hours	72 hours
Saline	24 hours	4 hours

Specimen Stability for RSV Testing

	Recommended Storage Condition	
	2°C to 8°C	25°C
Copan Universal Transport Medium (UTM)	24 hours	24 hours
Liquid Amies Media (eSwab)	24 hours	24 hours
Saline	24 hours	24 hours

*Note: The 1mL UTM provides a concentrated specimen for rapid antigen testing; however, this volume may not be appropriate for other types of testing. If multiple tests will be ordered from this specimen, please collect additional specimen(s) in 3mL UTM as appropriate.

Ordering Information (No Price or CPT Changes)

Order Code	Test Name	LOINC	Result Code	Result Name
6003125	Influenza A/B Rapid Screen			
		46082-4	6001875	Influenza A
		46083-2	6001975	Influenza B
		72365-0	6001880	Influenza A/B Interpretation
Order Code	Test Name	LOINC	Result Code	Result Name
6001850	RSV Screen	32040-8	6001850	RSV

1. Am J Clin Pathol 2013;139:684-689