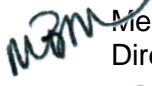






Memorandum Micro #195

To: UNC Medical Center Attending Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators, Department Heads and Supervisors

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Date: October 27, 2020

Subject: **2020-21 Testing for Respiratory Viruses at UNC McLendon Laboratories – Effective 11/2/20**

General Collection Information

A nasopharyngeal (NP) swab is the specimen of choice for acute upper respiratory tract infection and should be transported to the laboratory as soon as possible in approved transport media obtained from central distribution. One swab can be used for any combination of tests.

Sensitivity is dependent on the stage of the illness (<5 days most sensitive) and the proper collection of the nasopharyngeal swab. However, a properly collected NP swab will still detect SARS-CoV-2 for at least 10 days after symptom onset. For a demonstration of proper collection technique please review the NEJM video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVJNWefmHjE>

Additional information for each test below is available at the McLendon Clinical Laboratories website:

<http://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/uncmc/professional-education-services/mclendon-clinical-laboratories/available-tests/>

Available Molecular Respiratory Tests

Test Name	Test ID	Respiratory Pathogens Detected	Acceptable Specimens	Turn-around time (from specimen receipt in lab)
Flu/RSV/COVID PCR	LAB5811	Influenza A (not typed) Influenza B RSV SARS-CoV-2	NP swab OP (throat swab) NP/OP Nasal swab (mid-turbinate)	Rapid: 1h Routine: 4-8h
Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP)[§] + COVID	LAB5812	Influenza A (typed) Influenza B RSV SARS-CoV-2 Adenovirus Non-COVID coronaviruses [§] Metapneumovirus Rhinovirus/enterovirus Parainfluenza viruses (1-4) <i>Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis</i> <i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i> [§] <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> [§]	NP swab OP (throat swab) NP/OP Nasal swab (mid-turbinate) BAL Bronchial wash Sputum Tracheal aspirate	Rapid: 4h Routine: 8h
COVID-19 PCR	LAB12019	SARS-CoV-2	NP swab OP (throat swab) NP/OP Nasal swab (mid-turbinate) BAL Bronchial wash Tracheal aspirate	Rapid: 1h Inpatient: 8h Routine: 24h

[§]Two different respiratory panels will be used depending on supply. The panels vary slightly as one does not include the non-COVID coronaviruses (HKU1, NL63, 229E, OC43), *Chlamydia pneumoniae* nor *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

Due to the potential of supply shortages this respiratory season, the following testing algorithm is recommended:

Goal: Order all testing needed upfront. Add-on testing not available.
The turnaround time (rapid vs. routine) will be coded in EPIC based on patient location and guidelines from the UNCMC Testing Workgroup.

Patient population		Test
Symptomatic	Emergency Dept patients	Flu/RSV/COVID (LAB5811)
	Inpatients	RPP + COVID (LAB5812)
	Ambulatory*	Flu/RSV/COVID (LAB5811) or COVID-19 PCR (LAB12019)
Asymptomatic	Inpatient admission/pre-procedure	COVID-19 PCR (LAB12019)
	Ambulatory	COVID-19 PCR (LAB12019)

*Dependent on time since symptom onset (≤ 48 hours for influenza testing for potential treatment) and whether on-site point of care influenza testing is available at collection site.