



## RESPIRATORY VIRUS TESTING REMINDER

Optimal testing for respiratory infections requires the appropriate specimen type, collection method, and transport medium. Viral transport medium, provided by Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories (WDL), is validated and approved for Nucleic Acid Amplified Testing (NAAT) for respiratory pathogens.

- The symptomatic patient Viral Transport Collection Kit contains collection swabs in two sizes (a mini-tip for nasopharyngeal collection and a larger swab for oropharyngeal collection). Both specimens should be collected for a symptomatic patient.
- The COVID-19 asymptomatic patient Viral Transport Collection Kit contains a single large swab for nares collection.

New this year, as COVID-19 and influenza have similar symptoms, WDL offers a combination Influenza/SARS-CoV-2 Nucleic Acid Amplification Test for symptomatic patients. **The individual Influenza A&B and combination Influenza A&B/RSV tests are not available for the 2020-2021 respiratory virus season.** If RSV is suspected, testing is available as part of the Respiratory Extended Pathogen Panel NAAT.

To assist us in providing the most sensitive respiratory pathogen testing for your patients, please use Viral Transport Medium, refrigerate after collection and transport at refrigerated temperatures.

The following specimen types are acceptable for respiratory pathogen testing. Please note that transport medium is only required for swab specimens. Submit fluid specimens in a sterile screw-capped container.

- Bronchial alveolar lavage (BAL)
- Endotracheal aspirate
- Nasal aspirate
- Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab
- Combined NP & Throat swab
- Sputum

**For questions or additional information, please call:**

- Dr. Nathan Ledebner, Medical Director, Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics (414-805-7556)
- Dr. Blake Buchan, Associate Medical Director, Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics (414-805-6988)

**\*\*\*PLEASE REFER TO THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\*\***



**RESPIRATORY VIRUS TESTING BY  
NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFIED TEST (NAAT)**

TEST	MNEMONIC	TEST CODE	CPT CODE	VIRUSES/ORGANISMS DETECTED
Influenza A&B & Coronavirus COVID-19 NAAT	COV FLU NAAT	7000450	87636	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SARS-CoV-2</li> <li>• Influenza A &amp; B</li> </ul>
Coronavirus COVID-19, Asymptomatic	COV ASYMP	7000444	87635/U0003, U0004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SARS-CoV-2</li> </ul>
Respiratory Extended Pathogen Panel NAAT	RESP EPP NAAT	6750011	0202U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SARS-CoV-2</li> <li>• Influenza A &amp; B</li> <li>• Respiratory syncytial virus</li> <li>• Parainfluenza 1, 2, 3, 4</li> <li>• Adenovirus</li> <li>• Human Metapneumovirus</li> <li>• Coronavirus 229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43</li> <li>• Human Rhinovirus/Enterovirus</li> <li>• Bordetella parapertussis</li> <li>• Bordetella pertussis</li> <li>• Chlamydia pneumoniae</li> <li>• Mycoplasma pneumoniae</li> </ul>



***Nasopharyngeal Collection Guidelines:***

1. Insert swab into nostril with head at a 70° angle.
2. Press swab tip on the mucosal surface of the mid-inferior portion of the inferior turbinate (see drawing below). Rub the swab tip several times across the mucosal surface to loosen and collect cellular material.
3. Withdraw swab and insert into either the bacterial or viral transport as indicated. Cap securely.

