

October 2020

Respiratory Pathogen Panel Updates

Effective October 1, 2020, the Methodist Pathology Center has updated the Respiratory Panels offered for this upcoming Flu Season.

Order: The Primary options available for respiratory testing at Methodist:

- Respiratory Panel Flu/COVID (2019 Novel Coronavirus) by PCR
- Respiratory Panel Flu/RSV/COVID (2019 Novel Coronavirus) by PCR
- Respiratory Panel Expanded

Changes:

- SARS CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing has been added to all Respiratory panels offered.
- The Adult Respiratory Panel has been replaced by two alternative panels
 - **Respiratory Panel Flu/COVID (2019 Novel Coronavirus) by PCR:**
 - Influenza A
 - Influenza B
 - SARS CoV-2/COVID-19
 - **Respiratory Panel Flu/RSV/COVID (2019 Novel Coronavirus) by PCR:**
 - Influenza A
 - Influenza B
 - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
 - SARS CoV-2/COVID-19
- The Pediatric Respiratory Panel has been replaced by
 - **Respiratory Panel Expanded:**

▪ Influenza A	▪ Adenovirus**
▪ Influenza B	▪ Human metapneumovirus**
▪ Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	▪ Parainfluenza 1-4**
▪ SARS CoV-2	▪ Rhinovirus**

** These respiratory targets are only performed if influenza A/B, RSV, and COVID are all negative and is only available for inpatients.

- ***Bordetella* species (Pertussis/Parapertussis):** The new expanded respiratory panel order does not automatically include Pertussis. If there is a clinical suspicion for these organisms, order the Pertussis/Parapertussis PCR test separately

Specimen Requirements: Swab in viral transport medium (VTM)-unchanged.

Test Performed: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

Please direct any questions to Dr. Karre, Director of Microbiology, at 402-354-7842 or LaNett Whisler, Microbiology Service Leader at 4-4586.