

**Date:** November 28, 2014

**To:** Attending Staff, House Staff, Nursing, Clinics

**From:** Dr. Glen Hansen, Director, HCMC Microbiology Laboratory

**Subject:** Updates for Influenza and RSV Testing

Effective December 2, 2014 HCMC will offer rapid influenza and RSV testing.

- Rapid influenza and RSV tests are considered presumptive initial screening tests. Molecular testing (RVP PCR) is considered the most sensitive and comprehensive test for status of respiratory viruses (including flu).
- Review of 200 cases of influenza collected in 2014 indicates sensitivity of the rapid influenza test was 87% compared to RVP PCR.
- Testing for Influenza requires a careful knowledge of patient history. Sensitivity of testing approaches 90% when symptoms are present for  $\leq 48$ hrs, when virus is most abundant.
- For inpatient influenza orders or for patients whose symptoms persist  $>48$ hrs, sensitivity of rapid testing is poor. Please consider use of the molecular respiratory panel (RVP PCR) for increased sensitivity.
- Molecular testing (RVP PCR) is offered M-Sa 7-5pm
- Rapid influenza and RSV testing is offered 7 days a week, 6am-11pm

Collection Procedures

Samples should be collected via nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate submitted in viral transport media. Viral transport kits can be obtained in the storeroom, PeopleSoft #69846.

Respiratory Virus Panel (RVP) PCR	EPIC order: LAB0001431
Rapid Influenza virus antigen	EPIC order: LAB0000244
Rapid RSV virus antigen	EPIC order: LAB0000497

For additional questions please contact Dr. Glen Hansen at 3-3026, the microbiology supervisor Kevan Hanson at 3-4795, or the microbiology lab directly at 3-3033.