November 2021

To: Clients of the New York Hospital Laboratories **(NYHL)**

From: NYHL Management

Subject: **NEW Testing Guidance for Respiratory Pathogens**

Dear Valued NYHL Client,

Beginning November 15, 2021, a new order panel with computer decision support (CDS) will be available in Epic to guide appropriate testing for respiratory pathogens. When placing the order in Epic, it will prompt providers to answer questions regarding the patient's clinical status and testing indications, including rapid vs non-rapid. The system will recommend orders based on the provider's responses, the patient's clinical status and testing indications. Orders will then display based on the provider's responses. For non-Epic users orders will have to be determined by the provider based on Table 2 following and appropriate testing will have to be selected in the Change HealthCare portal or written in the miscellaneous test section on the paper requisition being submitted.
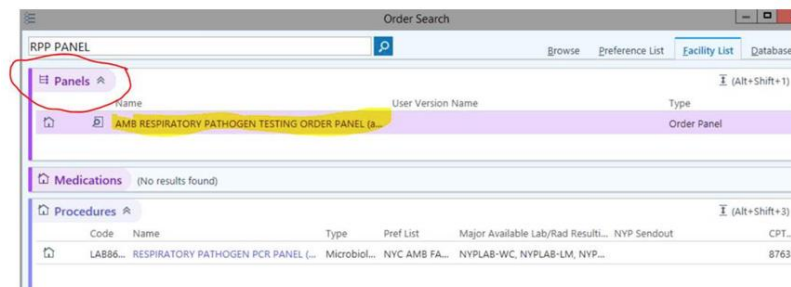
The following table (Table 1) are the available tests for *all* our clients utilizing our laboratory services at the Weill Cornell Campus. Kindly note, for Epic User the order to search is the Respiratory Pathogen PCR Panel (see below for Epic order info).

The newly available Respiratory Pathogen PCR Panel will require a Nasopharyngeal swab submitted in an approved Viral Transport Media. This full panel now includes **SARS-CoV-2,** in addition to Influenza, RSV, and/or other respiratory pathogens.

Kindly refer to the tables below following this memo for additional testing information and age appropriate guidelines.

ORDERING INFORMATION:

For Epic users: The NEW Respiratory Pathogen Testing Order Panel has a cascading effect and as such, in order to select the appropriate panel, on the "**Facility List**" tab in the ORDER PANEL section/category in the search field enter "**RPP PANEL**" and *select* **AMB RESPIRATORY PATHOGEN TESTING ORDER PANEL**.

For Change Health Care Portal users: Select the test order deemed appropriate by the provider based on the ordering guidelines detailed in the following table (Table 2).

For clients utilizing paper requests: In the miscellaneous test section, kindly write in the **Cerner ordering mnemonic** deemed appropriate by the provider based on the ordering guidelines detailed in the following table (Table 2).

TEST SUMMARY/SUPPLY INFORMATION:	**REQUIRED COLLECTION SUPPLY:**
Turnaround time: 24 hours (*once received in Microbiology*)	Nasopharyngeal swab submitted in an approved **Viral Transport Media** (see approved list)

Approved Transport Supplies:
Copan Universal Transport Media System (UTM-RT); BDTM Universal Viral Transport System (UVT); MedSchenker Smart Transport Medium

For any questions related to this new test or supply, please contact Client Services at (212) 746-0670.

As always, we appreciate your continued support of the Laboratories at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Table 1: NYH Labs Options for Testing Patients for Respiratory Pathogens[1]

Epic Order Name (Abbreviation)	Epic Order Name (Full)	Targets
SARS-CoV-2 NAAT (COVID)	SARS-CoV-2 NAAT	SARS-CoV-2 only
LIAT POC[2]	Liat SARS-CoV-2 and Flu A/B, POC	SARS-CoV-2 + influenza A, influenza B
3-Plex	SARS-CoV-2/ Flu A/ Flu B NAAT	SARS-CoV-2 + influenza A, influenza B
4-Plex	SARS-CoV-2/Flu A/ Flu B/ RSV NAAT	SARS-CoV-2 + influenza A, influenza B, RSV
RPP[3]	Respiratory pathogen PCR Panel	SARS-CoV-2 + 19 additional targets[3]

[1]Abbreviations used in table: NAAT – nucleic acid amplification test, POC – point of care [2]
LIAT POC is only available at certain sites.

[3] Additional targets include: Adenovirus, CoV HKU1, CoV NL63, CoV 229E, CoV OC43, human metapneumovirus, influenza A/H1, influenza A/H3, influenza B, RSV, parainfluenza 1-4, RSV, *Bordetella pertussis, B. parapertussis, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Chlamydophila pneumoniae*

Ambulatory Respiratory Pathogen Testing Guidance

- Testing is guided by symptoms, disposition, age, and immune status. *If a given test is unavailable, see provided alternatives in* **Table 4** *footnotes.*
- Depending on the seasonal epidemiology of influenza and RSV as well as NYS DOH mandates, guidance for testing of symptomatic patients may be expanded from SARS-CoV-2 to also include influenza and/or RSV (via the 3-plex order for adult patients >18 years or the 4-plex order for pediatric patients ≤ 18 years).
- **Indications for SARS-CoV-2 testing of asymptomatic patients** include: pre-procedure, pre-admission, exposure/ travel or discharge to a facility/ shelter.
- RPP should be ordered for symptomatic patients for any of the following:
  - Immunocompromised status
  - Clinical presentation consistent with atypical pneumonia or pertussis

Table 4. Respiratory Pathogen Testing for Ambulatory Settings (with Cerner Order Mnemonics)

Clinical Status	Immunocompetent		Immunocompromised
	Age > 18 years	**Age ≤ 18 years**	**All Ages**
No Symptoms[1] Of Covid-19 or respiratory infection	SARS- CoV-2 NAAT Via SARS-Cov-2 NAAT (Non-Rapid) order[2] **Cerner Mnemonic: Sars-CoV-2**		
HAS Symptoms Of COVID-19 or respiratory infection	SARS-CoV-2, influenza A, influenza B, Via 3-Plex Order[3,4] **Cerner Mnemonic: COVFLU**	SARS-CoV-2, influenza A, influenza B, RSV, Via 4-Plex Order[4] **Cerner Mnemonic: COVFLURSV**	RPP Via RPP Order[5] **Cerner Mnemonic: RPP**