

4/1/2026  
Laboratory Update

### **Swab Self-Collections for Respiratory Testing**

Dear Healthcare Provider,

This is to notify you that Tri-Health collection sites are moving to patient swab self-collections for respiratory infection testing. Our phlebotomy staff is highly skilled and focused on collecting blood samples for increasingly vulnerable and complex patient populations. We ask that you collect patient swab samples in the offices whenever possible or direct patients to a facility such as a Walgreens clinic where they can get tested & medication in one stop. Patients will continue to be welcome at TriHealth collection sites but will be asked to self-collect swabs for testing listed below.

#### **WHY?**

1. To reduce seasonal infection exposure to our more vulnerable patients that just need a blood draw, and to decrease seasonal spread among the rest of the patients in the waiting room.
2. We hope to reduce patient wait time.
3. To reduce staff exposure and spread of respiratory infections during cold & flu outbreaks.
4. For continuity and training standardization of staff, as well as standardizing patient expectations.

**Start Date:** Immediately

**TESTS:** Self collection guides are available on the [TriHealth Test Menu website](#)  
Strep A PCR or Upper Respiratory Culture: [Throat self-collection patient instructions](#)  
MRSA colonization screening: [Nares self-collection patient instructions](#)  
SARS-CoV2, Flu A&B, and RSV PCR: [4PLEX Nares self-collection patient instructions](#)  
MRPP Viral panel or 4plex: [NP viral self-collection patient instructions](#)  
Pertussis: [NP self-collection patient instructions](#)

We appreciate your cooperation with taking this step to reduce seasonal infections!

For questions or concerns, please contact me at [sajini\\_mathew@trihealth.com](mailto:sajini_mathew@trihealth.com) or 513-862-1604.  
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