



Lifespan

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Changes to COVID-19, Respiratory Pathogen Panel, and Influenza PCR testing.

As of Monday, October 5th, Lifespan Microbiology Laboratory will be replacing the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP) with Respiratory Pathogen Panel 2 (RP2) that includes COVID-19 (note: the RP2 panel will not include *Bordetella pertussis*; if clinically-indicated, this will need to be ordered separately). The RP2 panel will also include a single seasonal Coronavirus target. The RP2 panel is recommended for patients being admitted to the hospital with Influenza-like illness (ILI) and/or additional COVID-19 symptoms. On Tuesday October 13th a new COVID-19, Influenza A/B, combination panel will be available. This test is recommended for outpatients and those not being admitted who have symptoms of ILI and/or additional COVID-19 symptoms. The stand-alone rapid Influenza and Influenza/ RSV tests will still be orderable. See *Lifespan ILI/ COVID-19 algorithms for a list of symptoms*.

Important Notification The inclusion of COVID-19 on respiratory panels along with Influenza will result in the discontinuation of all *rapid* COVID-19 stand-alone tests. The COVID-19 stand-alone rapid PCR test is no longer being manufactured. Please see below for COVID-19 and respiratory pathogen testing options.

LifeChart Test Name	Specimen Collection	Availability
New Test, effective Oct 5, 2020		
Respiratory Pathogen Panel 2 (Includes COVID-19)	NP Swab in universal transport medium (UTM)	7d/ Week; 3 shifts RIH, TMH, NH Recommended for admitted patients with ILI and/or COVID-19 symptoms
New Test, effective Oct 13, 2020		
COVID-19, Influenza A/B PCR This a combination test, both targets are reported	NP Swab in UTM	5d/ Week; 1 st shift Coro Molecular Recommended for outpatients/ non-admitted
Discontinued Test, effective Oct 5, 2020		
Respiratory Pathogen Panel	N/A	No longer available
Existing Tests, effective Oct 5, 2020		
COVID-19 PCR This is Not a <i>rapid</i> test	NP Swab in UTM	5d/ Week; 1 st shift Coro Molecular
Bordetella Pertussis PCR	2 NP Swabs in one UTM (1 mL)	5d/ Week; send to RI-DOH
RSV and Influenza PCR (Rapid)	NP Swab in UTM	7d/ Week; 3 shifts RIH, TMH, NH
Influenza PCR (Rapid)	NP Swab in UTM	7d/ Week; 3 shifts RIH, TMH, NH

Ordering:

All tests will be orderable directly in LifeChart using the test name provided in the table above. There will no longer be a PUI paper form to fill out, all COVID-19, PCR tests will be batched tests. In accordance with the CARES Act, there will be “ask on order entry” (AOE) questions asked in LifeChart in which the provider must answer regarding a patient with a COVID-19 test order. The questions are as follows:

- 1) Does patient have COVID related symptoms? Y/N/U
- 2) Date of symptom onset?
- 3) Is patient employed in healthcare setting? Y/N/U
- 4) Does patient reside in congregate care setting? Y/N/U
- 5) Is patient pregnant?
- 6) Is patient hospitalized for COVID related symptoms? Y/N/ ICU-status Y/N
- 7) Has patient had previous COVID testing? Y/N/U

Resulting:

SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viral targets will all chart together in LifeChart under Infectious Disease Viral targets. SARS-CoV-2 will be the first viral target displayed.

In addition to “Detected” and “Not Detected”, “Presumptive Positive” will be a new call out for the COVID-19, PCR and COVID-19, Influenza A/B, PCR tests. This result will be accompanied with the comment “Viral RNA detected at low levels; virus transmission unlikely”.

Calling:

SARS-CoV-2 “Detected” and “Presumptive Positive” results will be called to the inpatient floor, Emergency Department QA nurse, Pre-admission testing coordinator and outpatient providers who do not use LifeChart. All other respiratory viral and pathogen targets will not be called.