

Memo

TO: Clinicians/Healthcare Professionals

**FROM: Area Virology Laboratory, Serology and
Virology Division (SAViD), NSWHP Randwick
Microbiology Department**

**DATE:
30/04/2019**

SUBJECT: Rapid Flu/RSV Testing and Respiratory Viral and Bacterial Screen

Dear Colleague,

Effective from 1st May 2019, the SAViD Area Virology Laboratory (NSWHP Randwick Microbiology) will offer Rapid Influenza and RSV PCR, with a turnaround of two hours.

The Rapid test may be indicated for:

- Patients admitted to ICU with respiratory infections,
- Hematology/oncology patients with flu-like symptoms,
- Patients in geriatric wards developing flu-like symptoms,
- Other immune compromised patients with flu-like symptoms and,
- Where a rapid laboratory diagnosis of influenza or RSV will influence bed management (isolation rooms) and the goals of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program in containing unnecessary antibiotic use.

Laboratory Testing Hours:

Daily: 06:00 to 01:00

Rapid Flu Testing turnaround is two hours from receipt of the specimen. Swabs sent for Rapid testing outside these hours will be processed at 06:00 on the same day unless approval is obtained from the pathologist on call.

It is mandatory that the individual who wants to receive the result is clearly identified by name with a contact number for immediate result delivery. Should this information not be given the sample will be sent for routine testing on the daily service.

Rapid testing is not suggested for patients who will be discharged from Emergency Departments or who have trivial illness

SAViD also has the provision of testing Respiratory Viral Screen (Daily) and Bacterial Screen (Tuesday and Friday) as a part of routine testing. Specimen(s) must reach the laboratory by 10:00 am to be included in the routine run. Details of the assays presented in Table 1 as below.

Table 1. Respiratory Viral and Bacterial Assays

Test	Targets	Acceptable specimen type
Flu/RSV Rapid	Influenza A/B, RSV	Nasopharyngeal swab (collected in Cepheid Xpert Viral Transport Medium) and Nasopharyngeal aspirate
Respiratory Viral Screen Panel 1 (RP1)	Influenza A (subtypes: H1 seasonal, H1pdm09 and H3); Influenza B; RSV A and RSV B	Nasopharyngeal aspirate, nasopharyngeal swab, and bronchoalveolar lavage
Respiratory Viral Screen Panel 2 (RP2)	Human adenovirus, Human metapneumovirus, Human enterovirus, Human parainfluenza virus 1, Human parainfluenza virus 2, Human parainfluenza virus 3, and Human parainfluenza virus 4	Nasopharyngeal aspirate, nasopharyngeal swab, and bronchoalveolar lavage
Respiratory Viral Screen Panel 3 (RP3)	Human bocavirus 1/2/3/4, Human rhinovirus A/B/C, Human coronavirus 229E, Human coronavirus NL63, and Human coronavirus OC43	Nasopharyngeal aspirate, nasopharyngeal swab, and bronchoalveolar lavage
Respiratory Bacterial Screen Panel (RP4)	Chlamydomphila pneumoniae, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Legionella pneumophila, Bordetella pertussis, Bordetella parapertussis	Nasopharyngeal aspirate, nasopharyngeal swab, bronchoalveolar lavage, and sputum

The SAViD laboratories have the capacity to perform additional testing on any days of the year based on demand and urgency of request as approved by the Pathologist on request to AVL ([9382 9133](tel:93829133)). Please contact the laboratory on 9382 9133 or email Kiran.Thapa@health.nsw.gov.au if you have any further questions.