



## ***INFLUENZA - RESPIRATORY VIRAL TESTING***

Date: February 6, 2008

Subject: New Test Methodology for Respiratory Viral Testing

The EMH Reference Laboratory is pleased to announce the implementation of respiratory viral testing by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Effective February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Respiratory Viral Panel (PCR) will replace the Direct Respiratory Profile (DRP) direct immunofluorescent assay (DFA) and viral culture for identifying respiratory viral infections. The superior sensitivity and specificity of the PCR method eliminates the need for time-consuming confirmatory viral cultures, and provides opportunities for appropriate treatment that can reduce the cost, severity, and duration of the illness.

The new Respiratory Viral Panel by PCR includes nucleic acid detection of the three most common and treatable respiratory viruses: Influenza virus type A, Influenza virus type B, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Acceptable specimens for testing include nasopharyngeal swab, wash, or aspirate transported in M4 media.\* Testing will be performed daily, Monday through Saturday.

The RSV by EIA will still be orderable, but will be confirmed by PCR instead of culture if negative (see table below). Detection of Adenovirus or Parainfluenza viruses will no longer be included in the respiratory panel. If you require testing for these viruses, they will be available as individual sendouts to Mayo Medical Laboratory.

For more information regarding this notice, please contact Ellen Michael, Senior Sales Representative at 847-612-7058 (cell) or [ellenmichael@ameritech.net](mailto:ellenmichael@ameritech.net) (email).

### *Respiratory Viral Testing - EMH Reference Laboratory*

<b>Test/Panel Name</b>	<b>Viral detection</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>TAT</b>	<b>Confirmatory test</b>	<b>Test code</b>	<b>CPT</b>
Respiratory Panel	Influenza A & B RSV	PCR	24 hrs Mon-Sat	None	FLU	87798 x 3
RSV Rapid antigen	RSV	EIA	24 hrs Mon-Sun	If negative, reflex FLU	DRSV	87807

\*If you suspect a case of avian flu (for example, if a patient has traveled to a country with a confirmed avian flu outbreak in humans or poultry and had direct contact with infected birds) or another emerging pandemic threat, please provide this information on the test requisition, and contact your State Department of Health immediately. EMH Reference Laboratory sends specimens from patients suspected of harboring avian flu virus to IDPH, to be cultured under enhanced Biosafety Level 3 conditions.

jmh Feb-08