

To All Medical Laboratory Users:

This edition of the Lab Med Update has the following articles:

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MEDICAL LABORATORIES

AUGUST 2021

Tighten Up Reminder

**When sending a specimen in a vial, container, or cup:
Carefully place the lid & gently tighten it up!**



A properly secured lid on our specimen containers:

1. Reduces risk of specimen leakage
2. Protects the specimen from contaminants
3. Helps avoid team member exposure to the specimen



Use of the urine
← collection kits
reduces the risk of a
leaky specimen, and
preserves specimen
quality.



**IF YOU HAVE AN ARTICLE(S) YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE CONTACT:**

Terri Workman Proffitt
434-924-5198

EMAIL:
Twp3q@virginia.edu

**Welcome UVA's New Associate Director of
Clinical Microbiology**
Emily Snavely, PhD, D(ABMM)



Dr. Snavely joined UVA's Department of Pathology on July 19th 2021 and began her new role among the faculty directors of Clinical Microbiology. She holds a PhD in Molecular Genetics and Microbiology from Duke University and recently completed her Medical Microbiology Fellowship at ARUP Laboratories and the University of Utah School of Medicine. Prior to her fellowship at ARUP, she was an APHL-CDC fellow working on antimicrobial resistance issues at the Wadsworth Center within the New York State Department of Health, where she developed and implemented a whole genome sequencing pipeline to

identify and report the presence of antibiotic resistance genes in bacterial isolates.

We are excited that she will be sharing her wealth of knowledge and skills with us and will be working to support the infectious disease testing needs within the UVA Health System. Welcome Dr. Snively!

Cytogenetic Test Ordering on NICU Patients

The Cytogenetics Laboratory, the Division of Pediatric Genetics, and NICU leadership have instituted a change to how orders for chromosome microarray are processed in Epic for patients in the NICU. As of July 1, all requests for LAB6004 will require approval from a genetics provider with documentation of this approval. Furthermore, the parent / guardian must provide consent for this testing with documentation of this consent. Both the approval and parent / guardian consent must be documented as part of the test order. These changes will prevent unnecessary or non-contributory testing from being ordered, allow for early involvement of the genetics team, and ensure appropriate counseling for the patient and family.

Respiratory Testing Options for the 2021-22 Respiratory Season

There are NO stand-alone PCR tests for Influenza A&B or RSV available through the UVA Medical Laboratories this respiratory season. Available tests include:

COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) PCR, UPPER RESPIRATORY [LAB4685]

- COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) stand-alone test
- Nasopharyngeal (NP) is preferred for stand-alone COVID PCR, and required for other testing (see below).
- Oropharyngeal (OP) specimens for stand-alone COVID PCR only
- If patient is symptomatic and Flu or RSV are in the differential, please consider using the RSV, FLU A&B, COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) VIRAL PCR [LAB4692] instead.
- Ordering the RSV, FLU A&B, COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) VIRAL PCR as a reflexive test following a COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) negative test will incur an additional charge, when a single charge that includes COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) could be sufficient.

COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) PCR, LOWER RESPIRATORY [LAB4686]

- COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) stand-alone test
- Available on Sputum and BAL only

RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL, INFLUENZA A&B AND COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) VIRAL PCR [LAB4692]

- Influenza A with subtyping
- Influenza B
- Respiratory Syncytial Viruses A and B
- COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2)

This test is available for NP SWABS in VTM ONLY; no other specimen types are accepted.

RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS PCR PANEL [LAB6177]

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Influenza A with subtyping | • <u>Coronavirus</u> (NOT SARS-COV-2) |
| • Influenza B | • <u>Chlamydia pneumoniae</u> |
| • Parainfluenza 1,2,3,4 | • <u>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</u> |
| • <u>Metapneumovirus</u> | • COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) in NP SWABS ONLY |
| • Rhinovirus/Enterovirus | |
| • Adenovirus | |
| • Respiratory Syncytial Viruses A and B | |

This test is available on select upper and lower respiratory samples, but COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) can **only** be included if a **NP swab** is received.

- NOTE: This test is often not covered by Medicare, and is poorly reimbursed by other insurance companies. ***Patients may incur a sizable out of pocket expense for this test.***
- For symptomatic outpatients, please consider using the RSV, FLU A&B, COVID-19 (SARS-COV-2) VIRAL PCR [LAB4692] instead.