

St. Joseph Hospital
 Influenza Testing – Information for Physicians
 Nov. 1, 2009

Testing offered by St. Joseph Hospital Microbiology Lab:

Test (test code)	Specimen	Method	Turn Around Time	Notes
Viral Culture (VC)	Any respiratory specimen	Cell culture	Read daily, may be positive as early as 72 hours; 2 weeks to negative report	Very sensitive; if virus is isolated further studies (sub-typing) can be performed
Viral respiratory Panel (VRP)	Nasal or throat washings, BAL	IFA (indirect fluorescent antibody)	Four to 24 hours (two to three runs done every 24 hours)	Detects not only influenza A and B but also Parainfluenza 1,2,3 , RVS, and Adenovirus
Rapid Influenza Test (RFLU)	Nasal swab (use special foam swab)	Lateral flow EIA	1 hour (offered 24/7)	Sensitivity of the test is rather low (50 – 60%) for H1N1 influenza; sensitivity is somewhat higher for seasonal influenza

Testing sent out to reference lab (Focus Diagnostics):

Test (test code)	Specimen	Method	Turn Around Time	Notes
H1N1 detection (H1N1PCR)	Nasopharyngeal swab placed into special VTM (viral transport media) within 30 minutes of collection	Real time PCR	24 – 48 hours	Test is very sensitive but only detects H1N1 influenza Request transport media from Processing division before collection. Cost per test: \$195

Testing performed by the Orange County Health Department Laboratory:

- Only specimens from patients with influenza like illness who are in intensive care or who have expired will be tested / sub-typed for H1N1 influenza at the discretion of the Health Department Epidemiology.
- Influenza Surveillance Program: sentinel laboratories and practitioners report to the OCHD influenza cases and / or send isolates for epidemiological assessment and typing. St. Joseph Hospital Microbiology lab participates in this program.