STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Non-Influenza Respiratory Viruses PCR Specimen Collection Instructions

1. The contents of the kit include:
   a. M4RT viral transport tube
   b. Nasopharyngeal and a sterile polyester–tipped sampling swab (Note: specimens collected using Calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden shafts are unacceptable for testing)
   c. Cold pack (place in freezer to insure that it is ready for future use)
   d. For specimens being mailed via overnight carrier: Category B Infectious Substance insulated box

2. Complete all required fields on the Clinical Test Requisition form (OL-9B).
   Include reason for testing as applicable: symptoms, travel history, outbreak investigation.

3. Label the specimen collection tube with:
   a. Patient name
   b. Date of birth
   c. Date of collection
   d. Specimen source
      Preferred specimen sources include:
      - Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab submitted in viral transport media
      - Upper respiratory specimens such as nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal aspirates or washes. Submit at least 2 mL liquid specimen in a sterile screw capped container.

4. Obtain an appropriate respiratory specimen from the patient using the proper collection technique.

5. For nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal specimens:
   a. Remove the screw cap top from the labeled M4RT viral transport tube.
   b. Insert the swab into the labeled M4RT tube until the swab touches the bottom.
   c. Break or cut off any excess swab handle and discard.
   d. Replace the cap on the labeled M4RT viral transport tube and firmly tighten.
   e. Place the labeled M4RT tube in the sealable biohazard bag containing the absorbent pad.
   f. Seal the top of the plastic bag.
   g. Place the completed OL-9B form in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag.

6. For transport via same-day courier:
   a. Submit the specimen in the sealed biohazard bag containing the absorbent pad.
   b. Place this bag inside a rigid outer container with a frozen ice pack.

7. For transport via overnight carrier:
   a. Insert the biohazard bag into white Tyvek bag and seal.
   b. Place the frozen ice pack, white Tyvek bag and completed OL-9B form into the insulated transport box.
   c. Seal the transport box for shipping. Be sure to include submitter's telephone number on outer box.
   d. Ship the box to the CT SPHL via overnight carrier.

To request PCR specimen collection kits please email: DPH.Outfitroom@ct.gov or call: 860-920-6674/6675

PLEASE NOTE: Specimens transported with an ice pack must be maintained at 2-8ºC and received at the CT SPHL within 72 hours of collection. If it is anticipated that specimens will not be delivered within 3 days, they must be frozen at -20ºC or lower and shipped to the CT SPHL on dry ice to remain frozen while in transit. Specimens not collected, handled, or transported in the prescribed manner may yield inaccurate results and will be rejected for testing.

Respiratory Virus Antigen Panel

Test Description	Qualitative assay to detect non-influenza respiratory virus nucleic acids: Respiratory syncytial virus, Parainfluenza 1, Parainfluenza 2, Parainfluenza 3, Parainfluenza 4, Human metapneumovirus, Rhinovirus, Enterovirus, Adenovirus
Test Use	To aid in the diagnosis of viral infection in individuals exhibiting symptoms of acute respiratory illness
Test Department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Singleplex Reverse Transcriptase real-time Polymerase Chain reaction (rRT-PCR)
Availability	Daily, Monday-Friday
Specimen Requirements	• Nasopharyngeal/Oropharyngeal swab submitted in viral transport media • Nasal aspirate, 2 mL, in a sterile screw capped container
Collection Kit/Container	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Collect sample within 3 days of symptom onset. Use only polyester or Dacron-tipped swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts. Do NOT use calcium alginate or cotton-tipped swabs, or wooden shaft swabs. Immediately place swabs into viral transport media
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimen at 2-8°C up to 3 days. Transport to the laboratory with a frozen ice pack coolant. If there is a delay in shipment expected, store specimens at -20°C or lower until delivered to the laboratory.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Specimens not handled, stored, or transported as described above
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select **Respiratory Virus Antigen Panel**)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source of collection, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	• Rhinoviruses (RVs) and enteroviruses (EVs) are closely related members of the family *Picornaviridae*, genus *Enterovirus*. • Because of the close genetic relatedness of these viruses, the RV rRT-PCR assay may detect some REVs and the REV rRT-PCR assay may detect some RVs if the viral load is high.
Additional comments	• The REV assay should only be used for detection of enteroviruses in respiratory specimens for diagnosis of acute respiratory illness. This assay should not be used for diagnosis of other illnesses associated with enterovirus infections. • Identification of a respiratory pathogen by rRT-PCR is not definitive proof of its etiologic link with the disease. A previous infection with continued virus shedding or a concurrent unrelated infection could result in misidentification of the pathogen responsible for the acute illness.

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