

ALLINA HEALTH LABORATORY

Memo

To: Allina Health Laboratory outreach clients

From: Allina Health Laboratory outreach services

Date: September 22, 2021

Re: COVID, Influenza and RSV testing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health departments have sent out notifications sharing that respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is circulating in our community, and the United States, at a higher rate than usual for this time of the year. Children with respiratory illness should be tested for SARS-CoV-2. In selected patients, testing for both SARS-CoV-2 and RSV may be considered.

[AAP practice guidelines](#) for children with bronchiolitis state that laboratory confirmation of RSV should not be performed routinely. Rapid RSV testing is only FDA-approved for use during the months of October through May and is not available unless there is a future change in the regulatory guidance.

Data from our laboratory confirms that RSV is circulating in the community.

Total # of tests performed (Age 0 - 4.5 years)	COVID positive	RSV positive	FLU A or B positive
42	1	15	0

Testing should be ordered judiciously to conserve testing supplies. For healthy infants and young children with typical symptoms of bronchiolitis, identification of RSV is unlikely to affect management and a clinical diagnosis is sufficient.

Due to supply procurement issues, at this time Allina Health Laboratory is unable to perform Influenza or RSV testing in house. Requests received for these tests will be sent to LabCorp for analysis.

Tests currently available:

COVID:

If your facility has arranged to have Allina Health Laboratory perform COVID testing, order the COVID-19 collection (14315/ALB14315).

INFLUENZA A and INFLUENZA B, NAA:

Order this test as an MSO to be forwarded to LabCorp for analysis (LabCorp test #140165).

INFLUENZA A, INFLUENZA B AND RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS, NAA:

Order this test as an MSO to be forwarded to LabCorp for analysis (LabCorp test #140163).

At this time there is no test available for RSV only.

Refer to the Allina Health Laboratory [Test catalog](#) for specimen requirements for each of the above available tests. *If both a COVID test and either an Influenza or Influenza and RSV test is requested, **two samples must be collected**. If only one sample is received with a request for both COVID and Influenza or Influenza and RSV testing, your site will be contacted to determine which test should be performed.*