



V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

Medical Center

In the tradition of the Medical College of Virginia

MEMORANDUM

The VCUHS Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will begin offering direct testing by nucleic acid amplification for Influenza A, Influenza B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) on Tuesday, November 18, 2008.

These assays will be performed Monday through Friday until November 21, 2008. Effective Monday, November 24, 2008, staffing will become available to perform these assays daily through the respiratory virus season (spring 2009) except for the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays.

Specifics regarding this multiplexed nucleic acid amplification assay are as follows:

ORDERABLE TEST: RSV, Influenza A and B Direct Testing

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS:

- Nasal aspirates or washes on ice
- Nasal aspirates or washes in Universal Transport Medium (UTM)

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

- **Viral culture of upper respiratory specimens** (nasal pharyngeal swabs, aspirates, or washes on ice or in UTM, and sputum) are available year-round. Using new technology, Influenza A, Influenza B, RSV, Parainfluenza viruses 1 through 3, Adenovirus and Human Metapneumovirus can be detected within 24-48 hrs. It is recommended that a virus culture be performed for patients subsequently admitted from either the emergency room or clinic setting with negative direct testing results for RSV, influenza A and B.
- **Viral culture of lower respiratory tract specimens** (eg. bronchoalveolar lavage and washings) are also available year-round using this new culture technology. For these specimens, Herpes Simplex virus and Cytomegalovirus will be detected in addition to those listed above in the first bullet.

Any questions regarding any aspect of this testing, please contact the Microbiology Director, Dr. Betty Forbes, at 804-828-3494.