

# Legacy Laboratory Services

## Legacy Lab Alert

October 2015

An Important Update from Legacy Laboratory Services

### Influenza AB RSV PCR FAQ's

The following answers to frequently asked questions has been prepared to help assist in the change from Influenza EIA and RSV EIA to the new PCR that covers both.

- 1. Will there still be a more rapid way to test for Flu and RSV than the PCR option?**
  - No. The PCR's will be the only tests available, either the quicker Influenza AB RSV PCR (2 hour turn-around time) or the big Respiratory Panel PCR (24 hour turn-around time).
- 2. Why did we make this change in testing?**
  - The FDA is relooking at the RIDT's (Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests) as a whole and many of them are either being pulled from the market or drastically changed because of their poor sensitivity. And since approximately 50% of the EIA answers given last year by the kit Legacy used were incorrect, and needed to be backed up with a PCR test anyway, we decided to just go straight to a PCR.
- 3. Why does it take 2 hours?**
  - This PCR does require at least one hour on the instrument. The turn-around time of 2 hours was set just to allow for complexities in the various labs, but the test is interfaced with our LIS so the answers will probably be available much quicker than the 2 hours allowed. We will re-evaluate this turn-around time next year after getting some good data from this year's flu season.
- 4. When is testing available?**
  - The Influenza AB RSV PCR is being implemented in all the Legacy hospital core laboratories, so not only will this test be available 24/7 to ED and inpatients alike, it will also be available all year long. No more starting and stopping of testing at the beginning and end of each flu season.
- 5. What specimen types can I use for the PCR?**
  - The same specimen types used for the EIA testing will be used for the PCR test. Those are nasal washes, nasal aspirates, and nasopharyngeal swabs.
- 6. Does this new test need any type of back up testing?**
  - No. There is no back-up testing needed for this PCR. The sensitivity and specificity are such that this test will give you a very accurate answer in a timely manner.
- 7. What is the orderable name in Epic?**
  - Influenza AB RSV PCR.



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877-270-5566

[legacylaboratoryservices@lhs.org](mailto:legacylaboratoryservices@lhs.org)

**8. Where can I find more information about these tests?**

- The Legacy Laboratory Services Test Table will have information on this specific test or any other tests performed at Legacy. We also have a Respiratory Virus Testing Options sheet on the Lab Services web page under Collection Guidelines that includes much of this information.
- If you are seeking more information on the most current guidelines on testing practices, please see the most current information on the CDC website:

[http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/clinician\\_guidance\\_ridt.htm#figure1](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/clinician_guidance_ridt.htm#figure1)

For specific questions, please contact:

Claudia Atherton, System Manager Microbiology, Legacy Laboratory Services, (503) 413-2828