Corewell Health

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Laboratory Bulletin

Updates to the Respiratory Pathogen Panel Test

Effective Date: 10/28/2024

Due to the continued unavailability of reagents for the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (EPIC: LAB1231265), Corewell Health – East Laboratory has validated a new assay for the Respiratory Pathogen Panel.

Notable changes include:

- **Approved for nasopharyngeal swabs only**
- **Does not detect Human bocavirus or *Legionella* species**

This assay is FDA-approved for nasopharyngeal swabs only.

For critically-ill patients in which testing on a lower respiratory specimen is necessary, a BAL sample can be collected and will be sent to the Corwell Health – West (CHW) laboratory for testing on validated assay. Turnaround times are not expected to be impacted.

All other lower respiratory tract specimens including sputum, tracheal secretions, and bronchial washings will be unacceptable for testing.

The new assay does not detect *Legionella* species, which was inclued on the previous assay. Clinicians who have concerns for *Legionella* infections should order a *Legionella* culture (LAB9020) and a *Legionella* urine antigen test (LAB8860).

The Respiratory Pathogen Panel will remain limited to inpatients only. For outpatients, the recommended alternative tests are SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) PCR [LAB1230607] and Influenza A/B,RSV PCR [LAB1231142]. These tests can be ordered together if indicated and continue to be available for outpatients.

If you have questions, please contact your Beaumont Laboratory Customer Service Department:

• Corewell Health Reference Lab East Customer Service: 800-551-0488 or 248-551-1155, Option 5

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