

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

NEW TEST TEST UPDATE

NOTIFICATION DATE: 3/18/2020

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/18/2020

COVID-19 PCR TEST – (COVID-19 PCR)

Northwell Health Laboratories is pleased to start offering a test for the detection of the novel coronavirus or COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) virus in respiratory specimens. This test uses Real-Time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR).

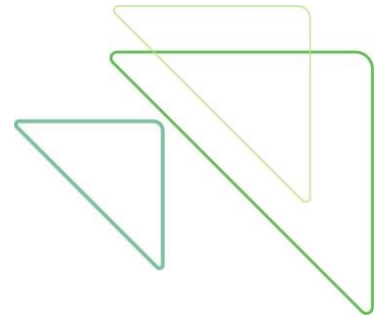
Limited availability initially: Because of limited laboratory capacity, at this time all requests for COVID-19 testing will be reviewed and triaged based on the risk and clinical needs of the patient. Northwell Health Labs may send non-critical testing to a reference lab as needed to ensure timely testing.

COVID-19 rule-out testing: The CDC strongly encourages clinicians to test for other causes of respiratory illness as well (1,2). Northwell Laboratory's Rapid Respiratory Virus Panel (Test Code: RVP, PDM# 6350695) (3), is readily available and has fast turnaround. It cannot detect the COVID-19 virus, but has the capability to detect the most common respiratory pathogens using a nasopharyngeal swab specimen. The RVP includes influenza virus, rhinovirus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and several others.

Persons Under Investigation (PUI): At this time, PUI criteria include persons who have had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset, or a history of travel from endemic areas (2). Persons under investigation that meet the PUI criteria are eligible for COVID-19 testing. In addition to any other required documentation, a **completed COVID-19-PCR Mandatory Paper Test Requisition Form must accompany the specimen, otherwise the specimen will be rejected. There are two distinct forms that are to be used accordingly: Out-Patient COVID-19-PCR Mandatory Test Requisition Form and Hospital-ED COVID-19-PCR Mandatory Test Requisition Form. Test Requisition forms are located in the Test Directory.**

Collect **Only One Nasopharyngeal Swab in One Vial** of Universal Transport Medium (UTM) Per Patient for **All** Testing:
Flu/RSV, Respiratory Virus Panel (RVP) and/or COVID-19 PCR..

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (516) 719-1100.



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Test Requirement/Parameters	Requirement
Method:	Real Time-PCR
Specimen Requirements:	One Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab , [usual Viral Swab (Dacron)], to be used for collection of a Nasopharyngeal specimen
Submission Container/Tube:	One Universal Transport Medium (UTM)
Collection Instructions:	Collect Only One Nasopharyngeal Swab in One Vial of Universal Transport Medium (UTM) Per Patient for All Testing: Flu/RSV, Respiratory Virus Panel (RVP) and/or COVID-19 PCR.
PPE:	Personal Protective Equipment for Contact and Airborne precautions
Specimen Stability:	Stable for 12 hours at room temperature or 72 hours at 2 – 8° C temperature. If arrival at the laboratory is expected to exceed 72 hours, the specimen should be frozen.
Documentation:	Outpatient - COVID-19-PCR Mandatory Test Requisition Form* Or Hospital-ED - COVID-19-PCR Mandatory Test Requisition Form* *Please use the Test Directory for the most current/up-to-date requisition forms

Computer Interface Code: [PDM # 20630433](#)

Test Order: [COVID-19 PCR](#)

- (1) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>
- (2) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>
- (3) <https://nsljlab.testcatalog.org/show/V-RVP-RAP-1>
- (4) <https://www.northwell.edu/northwell-health-labs/labfly/frequently-asked-questions>

(Links/sites accessed 3/9/2020)

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