

# Lab Update: FLU & RSV Testing

**Effective March 16, 2018**

Given that influenza A, B and RSV are common and can cause an indistinguishable clinical disease, this test is now **offered only as a panel**.

*Note: Charges will not increase you will still receive a single test charge.*

**Influenza (FLU)** is an acute, contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza A, B and C viruses. Only A and B are thought to cause significant disease, with B infections being milder than A.

Certain patients, including infants, the elderly, the immunocompromised, and those with impaired lung function, are at risk for serious complications.

Influenza infection may be treated with supportive therapy, as well as antiviral drugs. These drugs are most effective when given within the first 48 hours of infection, so prompt diagnosis and treatment are essential.

**Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)** is a respiratory virus that also infects the respiratory system and can cause an influenza-like illness. Most healthy people recover from RSV infection in 1 to 2 weeks. Infection can be severe in infants, young children, and older adults.

- Same day results for routine testing & stat results within 2 hours.
- Testing is offered at both Salem Health Laboratory & West Valley Hospital.

ORDERING DETAILS	SUPPLIES
Epic Order Code: LAB3808	Salem Health Universal Transport Media (UTM) Stores: # 8116
Lab Test Code: FLUNP	Outpatient Clinics: Call Client Services 503-561-5288
CPT Code: 87631	
METHODOLOGY	COLLECT
Multiplex real-time, reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay testing for viral RNA	Nasopharyngeal swabs (flexible rayon-tipped applicators) are the only acceptable specimens for testing. Collect specimen by insertion of NP swab into one nostril and back to the nasopharynx. Swab back and forth, or rotate the swab over the mucosa surface. Place swab in Viral Transport Media (UTM), stable room temperature for 24 hours.
UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Specimens received outside of stated stability limits, frozen samples, dry swabs not in listed transport media, alternate specimen sources and transport media have not been validated with this assay and will not be tested.	<a href="http://www.testmenu.com/salemhealthlab/Tests/881871">www.testmenu.com/salemhealthlab/Tests/881871</a>

**Renee Gerros, MT**  
Senior Specialist Microbiology  
503-814-1640