

Indication for Testing:



Note: During peak periods of respiratory illness, signs and symptoms may be sufficient for diagnosis and treatment decisions. Consult Infectious Disease Reports for respiratory test positivity prevalence (https://www.tricore.org/infectious_disease_reports)

Do any of the following conditions apply?

- Patient with fever (>37.8°C or 100°F), with or without respiratory symptoms (rhinorrhea, cough and/or sore throat)
- Patient with underlying pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, febrile illness after travel, immunocompromised, or elderly
- Patient with exposure to persons with known COVID-19 or influenza/influenza-like illness



If patient is pre-surgical or asymptomatic, perform COVID-19

Yes

Laboratory Testing:



A negative rapid antigen test for COVID-19, influenza, or RSV cannot rule out infection in symptomatic individuals during peak prevalence. **Initiation of antiviral treatment, if clinically indicated, should not be delayed pending results of testing.**

1. Flu A/B, RSV, COVID-19 PCR test (**FABRC**)
 - a. Patients ≤5 years will be tested for Flu A/B, RSV, and COVID-19.
 - b. Patients >5 years will be tested for Flu A/B and COVID-19 only.
- OR
2. Respiratory panel test (**RESPAN**—includes COVID)
 - a. Patients with chronic lung disease (including asthma)
 - b. Patients with cardiovascular disease
 - c. Immunocompromised patients
 - d. Patients requiring hospital admission
 - e. Patients >5 years needing RSV result

Negative test

Respiratory virus testing probably not indicated. See differential diagnosis below. Symptomatic therapy recommended.

Positive

Treatment Recommendations:



- Respiratory infection likely.
- Initiate antiviral therapy if clinically indicated.
- Isolate at home and away from others for 10 days.
- Symptomatic therapy recommended otherwise.

Differential Diagnosis:

- Additional respiratory virus testing not indicated. Symptomatic therapy recommended.
- Symptoms may be characteristic of acute bacterial pharyngitis. For testing recommendations, review patient with suspected pharyngitis algorithm.
- If cough persists for >2 weeks, consider testing for pertussis (**PPERT**).

Note: Rapid antigen tests have the best diagnostic performance when used to test patients presenting with symptoms or in outbreak settings.

References:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19. 2021. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rapid Diagnostic Testing for Influenza: Information for Clinical Laboratory Directors. 2016. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/rapidlab.htm>.