

Seasonal Respiratory Viruses and COVID-19

Testing To Detect Multiple Respiratory Infections, Including COVID-19 and Flu, to Inform Treatment Options



COVID-19 during respiratory virus season may create unprecedented health care challenges. Chief among these is a differential diagnosis in the presence of symptom overlap that exists between colds, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza (flu), and COVID-19.

There are important implications in knowing whether symptoms are caused by influenza, COVID-19 or both.¹

- Risk factors for more severe disease overlap: age, obesity, residents in congregate settings, underlying conditions of chronic lung disease, cardiac disease, advanced liver disease, chronic kidney disease¹⁻⁴
- Treating patients with influenza as though they have COVID-19 may delay administration of effective antivirals for influenza.¹
- Mitigation efforts for influenza are not as strict as those for COVID-19.¹
- Distinguishing between influenza and COVID-19 is important to disease surveillance activities.¹

	Cold ⁵	RSV ⁶	Flu ^{2,5}	COVID-19 ²
Symptoms				
Cough	●	●	●	●
Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath			●	●
Chest tightness, discomfort	●		●	
Wheezing		●		
Runny nose; stuffy nose	●	●	●	●
Sneezing	●	●		
Fatigue	●		●	●
Headache	●*		●	●
Body aches, muscle aches	●*		●	●
Fever	●*	●	●	●
Sore throat	●		●	●
Chills	●*		●	●
New loss of taste, smell				●

*These symptoms are considered rare, slight or uncommon.¹

The 2018 guidelines from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) recommend utilization of molecular assays to assess respiratory symptoms in patients suspected of having influenza and/or RSV.⁷ PCR has been endorsed as the test of choice for COVID-19 by IDSA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.⁸⁻¹⁰

Labcorp offers the following tests to help support a differential diagnosis in patients presenting with respiratory symptoms.

Test Name	Test No.	SARS-CoV-2	Influenza A + Influenza B	RSV
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), NAA	139900	●		
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) with Influenza A, Influenza B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus, NAA	140140	●	●	●
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) with Influenza A and Influenza B	140147	●	●	
Influenza A, Influenza B and Respiratory Syncytial Virus, NAA	140163		●	●
Influenza A and Influenza B, NAA	140165		●	
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) with Respiratory Syncytial Virus, NAA	140172	●		●

Labcorp's COVID-19 PCR test has not been FDA cleared or approved, has been authorized by FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), and has been authorized only for the detection of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2, not for any other viruses or pathogens. The test is only authorized for the duration of the declaration that circumstances exist justifying the authorization of emergency use of in vitro diagnostic tests for detection and/or diagnosis of COVID-19 under Section 564(b) (1) of the Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3(b)(1), unless the authorization is terminated or revoked sooner.

References

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Visit the online Test Menu at **Labcorp.com** for full test information, including CPT codes and specimen collection requirements.

