



New Molecular Test Service for SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Effective April 14, 2020, the Microbiology Department of Laboratory Alliance of Central New York will be offering a molecular, real-time PCR assay for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in nasopharyngeal specimens. This new test service will be called "SARS-CoV-2 Molecular".

A second platform was implemented June 1, 2020. It has a 5 hour turn-around-time.

NOTE: A completed NYS Department of Health Infectious Disease Requisition (IDR) is required to be sent with each specimen.

Clinical Significance

An outbreak of respiratory illness of unknown etiology was first documented in Wuhan City, China, in late December of 2019. Chinese scientists identified a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) as responsible for the outbreak that has since spread globally to cause pandemic disease. Because the 2019-nCoV causes a severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the virus was renamed by the World Health Organization as SARS-CoV-2.

Priorities for Testing Patients with Suspected COVID-19 Infection based on CDC guidelines

- **NOTE:** Only Priority 1 patients of the two owner hospitals, Crouse Health and St. Joseph's Health, will be tested at Laboratory Alliance. Taking into account the transportation of the specimen from the hospital laboratories to our Liverpool Operations Center laboratory, the expected turn-around-time is 2 hours. Priority 2 and 3 patients will continue to be referred to reference lab with a turn-around time of 48-72 hours.

PRIORITY 1:

- Hospitalized patients of Crouse Health & St. Joseph's Health
- Crouse & St. Joseph's healthcare workers with symptoms
- Emergency Department patients of Crouse Health & St. Joseph's Health (as testing supplies allow)

PRIORITY 2:

- Urgent Care patients of Crouse Health & St. Joseph's Health
- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responder with symptoms

PRIORITY 3:

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high number of COVID-19 hospitalizations

Test:	SARS-CoV-2 Molecular
Test Code:	COVID
Method:	Real-time PCR
Specimen Requirement:	Nasopharyngeal specimen collected on a flocced or dacron tipped swab placed in Universal Transport Medium (UTM) or other Viral Transport Medium (VTM)
Unacceptable Conditions:	Any swab other than Dacron or flocced swabs and any transport media other than UTM such as Molecular Test Medium (MTM)*, saline, or phosphate buffered saline (PBS) Calcium alginate swabs should not be used and wooden applicator shafts are not acceptable for testing.
Transport & Stability:	Room temperature for up to 8 hours or refrigerated (2 to 8°C) for up to 7 days
Schedule of Testing:	Daily
CPT Code:	87635
Billing Code:	3010461

Please contact Dr. Paul Granato, Director of Microbiology at 315-263-9078 or Mr. Russell Rawling, Manager of Microbiology, at 315-410-7060 if you have any questions or concerns.

References: Center for Disease Control