



October 7, 2014

Dear Provider:

The winter respiratory virus season is quickly approaching in Western New York. This notification will serve to inform you about the options available from ACM Medical Laboratory for the upcoming respiratory virus season.

To maximize the accuracy and efficiency of respiratory virus testing during the respiratory virus season, ACM Medical Laboratory will be offering a rapid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test that will detect and differentiate influenza A, influenza B and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The specific test used at ACM Medical Laboratory will be the Simplexa **Influenza A/B/RSV PCR Direct** test from Focus Diagnostics. This is an FDA-approved method to detect these viruses. Please note that this is a multiplex assay and results for all three viruses will be reported. ACM will offer a <24 hour turnaround time for the **Influenza A/B/RSV PCR**, which is a 3-7 day *reduction* in TAT compared to viral culture methods.

Given the marked increase in sensitivity of PCR testing compared to other diagnostic methods for influenza and RSV, ACM will **not** offer rapid RSV or influenza antigen testing for the 2014/2015 respiratory virus season. Requisitions indicating “influenza,” “RSV” or “rapid antigen” will receive the **Influenza A/B/RSV PCR** assay.

We would request that physicians who are suspecting **other** common respiratory viruses order ACM’s **Comprehensive Respiratory Panel**. This panel will include PCR testing for **influenza** and **RSV**, plus a rapid shell vial culture for **parainfluenza viruses 1, 2, 3 and adenovirus**. Requests for **Enterovirus (including Enterovirus-68)** should be indicated on the requisition with an order for a **General Viral Culture** (ACM test code 1404) with the **source** (nasopharyngeal, nasal washes, throat, etc.) clearly indicated.

**Note:** *Please do not order a General Viral Culture for Influenza or RSV, as turnaround times will be significantly delayed.*

Please refer to the table below for specific details, as well as [www.acmlab.com](http://www.acmlab.com) for extra copies of this memo and additional technical information. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Suzanne Dale, Director of Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics or Ms. Edi Hewa, Manager of Microbiology at 585-429-2204.

Respiratory Virus Tests Offered for 2014/15	ACM Test	CPT Code(s)	Testing Schedule & Reporting
Influenza A/B/RSV PCR	1554	87631	Schedule: Performed multiple times per day Reported: 24 hours after receipt at ACM.
Comprehensive Respiratory Panel (Includes Influenza A/B/RSV PCR + rapid shell vial culture for Parainfluenza virus 1, 2, 3 and Adenovirus)	1590	87631 and 87254 (x4)	Schedule: PCR performed multiple times per day. Shell vials set-up Mon. – Fri. Reported: PCR → 24 hours after receipt at ACM Shell Vials → 72 hours after set-up.
General Viral Culture – <b>IDENTIFY SOURCE &amp; Virus Requested</b> (e.g. Enterovirus, CMV, Rhinovirus)	1404	87252*	Schedule: Set-up Monday to Sunday Reported: 14 days after set-up

\*Additional CPT codes may apply depending on initial results.