Influenza PCR

Test Description	Qualitative assay for the detection of influenza virus nucleic acid (RNA). Includes: • Influenza A/H1 • Influenza A 2009/H1 • Influenza A/ H3 • Influenza A/H3v • Influenza A/ H5 • Influenza A/H7 • Influenza B, Victoria and Yamagata
Test Use	To aid in diagnosis of influenza infection in symptomatic individuals
Test Department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Real-time Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (rRT-PCR)
Availability	Daily, Monday-Friday
Specimen Requirements	• Nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab submitted in viral transport media. • Respiratory specimens such as broncheoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirates, sputum, nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal aspirates or washes. Submit at least 2 mL liquid specimen in a sterile screw capped container. • Cell culture that is confirmed to contain influenza virus.
Collection Kit/Container	Category B shipping box with cold pack To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Collect specimens within 3 days of symptom onset. Use only polyester or Dacron-tipped swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts. Do NOT use calcium alginate or cotton-tipped, or wood shafted swabs. Immediately place swabs into viral transport media.
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimen at 2-8° C. Specimens should be received within 4 days of collection. Transport with an ice pack coolant.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Improperly collected specimens Specimens submitted at improper temperature
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select **Influenza PCR**)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, date of birth, town of residence (city, state, zip) Specimen source/type, date collected, and test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.

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