

Express Flu PCR to replace Influenza A/B Rapid Screen



Influenza A & B Detection

Effective November 28th, 2017 St. Luke's Laboratory will begin using PCR for the detection of Influenza A and Influenza B in nasopharyngeal swab specimens.

Due to its greater sensitivity in the detection of Influenza, PCR testing will take the place of the current enzyme immunoassay test. The Xpert® Xpress Flu assay uses multiplex real-time, reverse transcriptase PCR for the qualitative detection of Influenza A and Influenza B RNA in nasopharyngeal swab specimens. It has a run time of approximately 30 minutes (or as little as 20 minutes for positives), and uses the same nasopharyngeal swab specimen in UTM that is used by the current test method.

*Please note: This test is not intended to differentiate Influenza A subtypes or Influenza B lineages.

This PCR test will be performed by St. Luke's Hospital Laboratory only. All off site clinics that currently perform testing for Influenza will continue to perform the enzyme immunoassay test.

Sample Type:

- Nasopharyngeal swab specimen in Universal Transport Medium (UTM) or Viral Transport Medium (VTM).

Test Name: INFLUENZA A/B PCR, Nasopharyngeal (Test Code: FLUPCR)

If you have questions, please contact St. Luke's Microbiology Laboratory at 218-249-5319 or Dr. Jon Steinhauer at 218-249-5749.