# MEMORANDUM

**TO:**      Catholic Health Medical Staff

**FROM:**    Hans P Cassagnol, MD, MMM, EVP, Chief Clinical Officer & Physician Executive

**DATE:**    March 28, 2020

**RE:**      Combined Swab Process: COVID, FLU, FLU/RSV

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Effective today, the laboratory will be able to accept combined testing for COVID and FLU or FLU/RSV testing. This change in process is to accomplish 3 separate but equally important goals: reduce the number of swabs used, conserve FLU/RSV tests, and prioritize inpatient & healthcare worker testing. The FLU or FLU/RSV combined testing is completed in the laboratories at Catholic Health and COVID testing is sent out to Quest Diagnostics. Because of this, laboratory is requiring some information be included when submitting specimens for COVID testing by utilizing the attached request slip. This will assist in ensuring all testing is completed timely.

The process outlined on the slip does not replace the clinical order in the medical record. The process will be:

- Providers should still place the order in Soarian/Medhost/Meditech per policy.
- The swab should then be collected and labeled using either the Flu, FLU/RSV, or COVID sample label.
- The individual submitting the specimen to the laboratory should complete the questions on the request slip, including confirmation of the tests requested, inpatient status, and associate or provider status.
- The specimen may then be submitted to the laboratory along with the slip. Once received in the laboratory, the specimen will be tested for FLU or FLU/RSV and then forwarded to Quest with the appropriate priority.

With this process change, we are able to save a significant amount of our resources.


If you have immediate questions or concerns, please address them with:

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Manager, Pathology, Microbiology, & Laboratory Quality Improvement Initiatives
Catholic Health Laboratories
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|---|---|---|
| Patient Label or<br><br>Name:_____<br><br>DOB:_____ | Patient Label or<br><br>Name:_____<br><br>DOB:_____ | Patient Label or<br><br>Name:_____<br><br>DOB:_____ |

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|---|---|---|
| **COMBINED FLU-RSV-COVID SWAB**<br><br>*(Help lab save inventory)*<br><br>1) Provider: **Order** tests in Soarian/ meditech/medhost<br><br>2) **Collect** swab & label using either flu or COVID label<br><br>3) **Mark** tests requested:<br>    [ ] FLU<br>    [ ] RSV<br>    [ ] COVID<br><br>4) **Answer**- Is patient an inpatient or being admitted?<br>    [ ] Yes<br>    [ ] No<br><br>5) **Answer**- Is patient a CHS associate or provider?<br>    [ ] Yes<br>    [ ] No<br><br>6) **Submit** this slip to lab with the specimen<br><br>*Lab use only:*<br>[ ] FLU or FLU/RSV testing complete | **COMBINED FLU-RSV-COVID SWAB**<br><br>*(Help lab save inventory)*<br><br>1) Provider: **Order** tests in Soarian/ meditech/medhost<br><br>2) **Collect** swab & label using either flu or COVID label<br><br>3) **Mark** tests requested:<br>    [ ] FLU<br>    [ ] RSV<br>    [ ] COVID<br><br>4) **Answer**- Is patient an inpatient or being admitted?<br>    [ ] Yes<br>    [ ] No<br><br>5) **Answer**- Is patient a CHS associate or provider?<br>    [ ] Yes<br>    [ ] No<br><br>6) **Submit** this slip to lab with the specimen<br><br>*Lab use only:*<br>[ ] FLU or FLU/RSV testing complete | **COMBINED FLU-RSV-COVID SWAB**<br><br>*(Help lab save inventory)*<br><br>1) Provider: **Order** tests in Soarian/ meditech/medhost<br><br>2) **Collect** swab & label using either flu or COVID label<br><br>3) **Mark** tests requested:<br>    [ ] FLU<br>    [ ] RSV<br>    [ ] COVID<br><br>4) **Answer**- Is patient an inpatient or being admitted?<br>    [ ] Yes<br>    [ ] No<br><br>5) **Answer**- Is patient a CHS associate or provider?<br>    [ ] Yes<br>    [ ] No<br><br>6) **Submit** this slip to lab with the specimen<br><br>*Lab use only:*<br>[ ] FLU or FLU/RSV testing complete |