

September 23, 2020

Testing for Influenza is now mandated by the DOH when testing for COVID-19 in Hospitalized and ED Patients with a history of Viral Respiratory Symptoms¹ or a Known Exposure²

All Patients presenting to the ED or in the hospital that have viral respiratory infection symptoms¹ as determined by the provider must be tested for **BOTH** COVID-19 and Influenza if not previously tested during the stay.

All Patients presenting to the ED or in the hospital with reported EXPOSURE² to either COVID-19 or Influenza must be tested for **BOTH** COVID-19 and Influenza.

Any patient that dies in route to the hospital or in the hospital with suspected COVID-19 or Influenza that has not been tested in the preceding 14 days must be tested for both diseases **IF** NEXT OF KIN CONSENT is obtained.

Combined testing rules **DO NOT** apply to patients undergoing screening for procedures or screening for discharge to other facilities.

Combined testing rules **DO NOT** apply to Associate Health testing outside of ED.

Please refer to **Policy IC 124** in M-files for additional details.

1. **Respiratory Virus infection symptoms** include new cough, new onset dyspnea, sore throat, nasal congestion, pleuritic pain, fever (subjective or as defined by temperature ≥ 100 F), shaking chills, loss of taste or smell, and unexplained muscle aches. In most instances, respiratory virus infections will be accompanied by more than one of the above symptoms.

2. **Exposure** as defined by CDC: 15 minutes or more contact within 6 feet of a person with active COVID-19 without PPE.