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RE: Important changes to COVID-19 testing method

Dear Laboratory Partner,

As of August 24, 2020, the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory (WPHL) will be changing methods for COVID-19 testing. In effort to prepare for the upcoming influenza season, WPHL will be changing SARS-CoV-2 testing methods to a molecular method that allows for the simultaneous detection of influenza A, influenza B, and SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

Since March 5, 2020, WPHL has been performing molecular COVID-19 testing using the CDC 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel. Like the current assay, the new method, the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex Assay, also has emergency use authorization (EUA) by the FDA.

Flu SC2 assay result reports will display results for each analyte:

| Analyte | Possible results |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| SARS-CoV-2 | Detected or Not Detected |
| Influenza A | Detected or Not Detected |
| Influenza B | Detected or Not Detected |

The Flu SC2 Multiplex Assay will be validated for use on nasopharyngeal swabs. Other acceptable specimens include:

- Oropharyngeal swabs,
- Nasal swabs,
- Lower respiratory tract aspirates,
- Bronchoalveolar lavage, or
- Nasopharyngeal wash or nasal aspirates.

However, the performance characteristics of the Flu SC2 on these additional specimen types has not been evaluated.

The process for ordering testing will not change. Submitters who utilize the REDCap submission process will follow the same process; the laboratory will automatically order the Flu SC2 test.

Submitters using the Laboratory Web Portal will only be able to order the Flu SC2 test for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Some questions you may have:

Will my facility be charged for testing?

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 using the Flu SC2 assay at WPHL will remain at no cost to the specimen submitter.

My facility is part of the Wyoming Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Program. Do I order influenza testing for patients with Influenza-like Illness (ILI) cases like I have in the past or should I request a Flu SC2 test?

Please order a Flu SC2 test for any patients with ILI and follow the Flu SC2 ordering process.

How does this assay compare to the CDC 2019-nCoV assay WPHL has been performing?

The new Flu SC2 Multiplex Assay has a reported limit of detection that is lower than the CDC 2019-nCoV. The Flu SC2 Multiplex Assay can detect down to one viral copy per microliter whereas the CDC 2019-nCoV assay was able to detect down to two viral copies per microliter.

What is the Laboratory Web Portal and how do I gain access?

WPHL has a new online test ordering and resulting system. This system allows submitters to electronically order tests and receive WPHL test results electronically and download them. We highly encourage submitters to transition to our Laboratory Web Portal system. For more information, please email WDH-ETOR@wyo.gov.

Please contact us with any other questions you may have about SARS-CoV-2 testing at WPHL. You may also find more information on our website:

<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/lab/>

Thank you,



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