

THE PATHCARE NEWS

UPDATE ON MOLECULAR TESTING FOR RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS



Testing for respiratory pathogens using comprehensive multiplex molecular panels have become a valuable diagnostic tool to assist in early identification of causative organisms. Appropriate use supports timely and directed antimicrobial therapy, especially for organisms that cannot be routinely cultured (e.g. *Mycoplasma*, *Legionella*, *Chlamydophila*, *Bordetella*, and viruses); decreases in-hospital admission rate, length of hospital stay, and also assists in antimicrobial stewardship by avoiding the use of empiric antimicrobial agents.

The currently used BioFire FilmArray syndromic panels targeting both viral and bacterial pathogens are not funded by most medical aids. In discussion with clinicians, we identified a need to provide bacterial and viral tests separately as these panels are each charged as a single PCR test code.

PathCare now introduces two separate options for the investigation of respiratory infections, a Respiratory Bacterial Panel and a Respiratory Viral Panel. Results are usually available within 24 hours from time of receipt at the molecular laboratory.

Please specify requests clearly to indicate when single panels (either Bacterial or Viral) are requested. Please also note that SARS-CoV-2 is not included in the Viral panel although 4 seasonal coronaviruses are included.

Respiratory Bacterial Panel

C. pneumoniae
M. pneumoniae
L. pneumophila
B. pertussis
B. parapertussis
S. pneumoniae
H. influenzae

Respiratory Viral panel

Influenza A virus
Influenza A H1-2009
Influenza B virus
Coronavirus NL63
Coronavirus 229E
Coronavirus OC43
Coronavirus HKU1
Parainfluenza 1
Parainfluenza 2
Parainfluenza 3
Parainfluenza 4
Metapneumovirus A&B
Rhinovirus
RSV A&B
Adenovirus
Enterovirus
Parechovirus
Bocavirus

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