

Influenza/COVID Winter 2020 testing guidance

The following populations meet criteria for Flu Testing:

1. Flu-like febrile respiratory illness and sepsis-like syndrome requiring hospitalization
2. Those at **high concern for complications** with influenza, including:
 - a. Children less than 5 years old
 - b. Persons aged 65 years or older
 - c. Adults and children who have immunosuppression (including caused by medications or by HIV);
 - d. Adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, renal, hematologic, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders;
 - e. Pregnant/postpartum women
 - f. Children and adolescents (less than 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection
 - g. Patients with BMI >40
3. Healthcare workers
4. Caregivers of high risk patients, and individuals in congregate settings

The following chart illustrates testing that should be ordered by location:

* Algorithm change effective 12/15/2020

Location	Population	Symptoms, Risk, Disposition	Testing
ED/ILI	Adult/Pedi (>2 if no diarrhea/ minor respiratory sx)	Getting admitted: URI/Flu sx *	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2, RSV
	Pedi <2yrs	Getting admitted: URI/Flu sx *	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2, RSV
	Pedi <5 yrs	Discharged or Admitted: Patients with diarrhea, minor respiratory sx *	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2, RSV
	Adult/Pedi	Getting admitted OR discharged: Leukemia and Transplant patients *	Comprehensive Respiratory Panel
	Adult/Pedi >5	Discharged: URI/Flu sx with high concern for flu complications or a healthcare worker (All patients who meet criteria 2, 3, OR 4)	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2
	Pedi 2-5years	Discharged: URI/Flu sx (no diarrhea)	
	Adult/Pedi > 5 yrs	Discharged: URI/Flu sx and does not meet Criteria for Flu Testing	SARS-CoV-2
	Pedi <2yrs	Discharged: URI/Flu sx *	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2, RSV
Inpatient	Adult/Pedi	Develops new URI/Flu sx, or knowledge of results would change clinical management	Comprehensive Respiratory Panel
	Adult/Pedi	Transfer: With URI/Flu sx, no result at time of transfer	
	Pedi <5 yrs	Develops new diarrhea minor respiratory sx	
	Pedi <5 yrs	Diarrhea minor respiratory sx	Comprehensive Respiratory Panel

Pedi Primary Care Clinic	Pedi >5 years	High concern for flu complications URI/Flu sx (with fever) OR discharge to a congregate setting	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2
	Pedi 2-5 years	URI/Flu sx (no diarrhea)	
	Pedi <2yrs	URI/Flu sx	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2, RSV
	Pedi > 5 years	URI/Flu sx and does not meet Criteria for Flu Testing	SARS-CoV-2
Traveling MA	Adult/Pedi (>2 if no diarrhea/ minor respiratory sx)	Getting Admitted, seen by Traveling MA: URI/Flu sx *	Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2

Patients presenting with symptoms should be referred to ILI clinic, Peds clinic, or ED (if possibly requiring admission) for test collection.

Influenza/COVID Winter 2020 testing guidance for sites not specified above

FIRST: consider need for flu testing

Patients presenting with URI or other ILI symptoms MAY NOT always require testing for influenza/RSV. ONLY test for influenza if the following apply:

Criteria for Influenza Testing

1. Flu-like febrile respiratory illness and sepsis-like syndrome requiring hospitalization ([Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2](#))
2. Those at high risk of complications with influenza, including: ([Influenza A/B \[+ RSV in children < 2yrs\]](#))
 - o Children less than 5 years old
 - o Persons aged 65 years or older
 - o Adults and children who have immunosuppression (including caused by medications or by HIV);
 - o Adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, renal, hematologic, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders;
 - o Pregnant/postpartum women
 - o Children and adolescents (less than 18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection
 - o Patients with BMI >40
3. Healthcare workers ([Influenza A/B](#))
4. Caregivers of high risk patients ([Influenza A/B](#))

NEXT: consider need for COVID testing

MOST patients presenting with URI, flu-like, or GI symptoms will require COVID testing

Exceptions:

- Prior dx of COVID with first positive test in last 90 days (Epic decision support will provide guidance in chart)
- SARS-CoV-2 or Comprehensive Resp Viral Panel already ordered for other indication

When possible, patients presenting with symptoms **should be referred to ILI clinic, Peds clinic, or ED** (if possibly requiring admission) **for test collection**. If sample must be collected outside of this environment, refer to isolation and PPE guidance for test collection. [Please refer to document on locations for testing](#).