

FACT SHEET

Influenza Virus PCR

Test 50000

The SLO Public health laboratory performs a molecular amplification for detection of Influenza virus by a real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction method.

Specimens accepted for testing :

Preferred specimen: Naso-pharyngeal (NP) swab in M4 viral transport medium

Other specimens that can be accepted include throat swabs (TS), nasal washes (NW), bronchial alveolar lavage (BAL), bronchial washes (BW), tracheal aspirates(TA) and lung tissue.

Specimens may be stored for up to 72 hours at refrigerator temperature before processing. Residual specimens can be stored at -70C

M4 viral transport medium kits are provided. Other viral transport medium (VTM) are acceptable.

Sensitivity

The SLO Public health laboratory performs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Influenza PCR method that can detect the following viruses

- Influenza A, subtypes H1, pandemic H1, H3, H5*
- Influenza B

* if the patient meets with the most current US Dept of Health and Human Services clinical and epidemiologic criteria for testing suspect A/H5 specimens.

Clinical sensitivity for all markers was greater than 96-100% for NP, NS, TS specimens; 83-84% for BAL, BW and TA specimens.

Specificity

Analytical specificity for all markers was 100% with testing of 15 viruses, 17 bacteria and 1 yeast.

Holding time

- 72 hours at refrigerator temperature after collection for all swab specimens;
- Indefinitely at -70C

FDA approval

- Approved by FDA as In Vitro Diagnostic Device (IVD)

CPT code: 87501



San Luis Obispo County Public Health Laboratory

Phone: (805) 781-5507 Fax: (805) 781-1023 www.sloPublicHealth.org/lab

2191 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Laboratory Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm