



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

LABORATORY TEST FACT SHEET

TEST: INFLUENZA VIRUS PCR

ORDER CODE: 50000

TEST DESCRIPTION

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (SLO PHL) detects Influenza virus by a real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) method. Using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Influenza PCR protocol, the following viruses are detected:

- Influenza A, subtypes pandemic H1, H3, H5*, H7*
- Influenza B, lineage types Victoria and Yamagata

*If meeting the clinical and epidemiologic criteria for testing suspect A/H5 and/or A/H7 specimens.

Sensitivity and Specificity

Clinical sensitivity for all markers was greater than 96–100% for nasopharyngeal (NP) swab, nasal wash (NW), and throat swab (TS) specimens; 83–84% for bronchial alveolar lavage (BAL), bronchial wash (BW), and tracheal aspirate (TA) specimens.

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

SPECIMENS ACCEPTED FOR TESTING

1. Preferred specimen: NP swab in viral transport medium.
2. Other acceptable specimens include TS or nasal swab in viral transport medium, NW, BAL, BW, TA, or lung tissue in a sterile container.

Viral transport medium kits are provided.

Storage and Transport temperature: Specimens can be stored for up to 72 hours at refrigerator temperature before processing. Residual specimens can be stored at -70 °C.

Holding time:

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

CPT code: 87501