

Respiratory Pathogen Panel PCR Utilization

Clinical Practice Guideline

Approved by SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Clinical
Practice Guidelines Committee December 1, 2023

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**SSMHealth Cardinal Glennon
Access Center Transfer Line**

888-229-2424

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Box 1: Respiratory Tract Infection Symptoms

- Cough
- Rhinorrhea
- Increased work of breathing
- Abnormal lung exam

Note: Patients that are intubated or have a tracheostomy may not have typical signs and symptoms of a respiratory tract infection

Box 2: High-Risk Conditions

- Immunocompromised patients
- Chronic underlying conditions in the following systems:
 - Cardiovascular
 - Genetic
 - Metabolic
 - Hematologic
 - Neurodevelopmental, neuromuscular, or neurological
 - Pulmonary
 - Renal

- Inclusion Criteria**
- Clinician desires to obtain a Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPP; LAB 00486) or other nasopharyngeal viral PCR panel due to concern for respiratory pathogen infection AND feel that pathogen identification would be clinically helpful

Exclusion Criteria

- Clinician desires to obtain a RPP to remove patient from Isolation; the RPP should not be used to remove a patient from isolation
- For questions at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon, call Infection Control (pager 314-908-9539 or ext. 1506)

Is SARS-CoV-2 the only pathogen you are interested in?

YES

Obtain the dedicated SARS-CoV-2 PCR (LAB 13674)

NO

Does the patient have signs and symptoms of a respiratory pathogen (see [Box 1](#))

YES

Obtain **ONE** of the following:

- SARS-CoV-2, Influenza, and RSV PCR (LAB 13969)
- SARS-CoV-2 and Influenza PCR (LAB 13978)

TEST RESULT POSITIVE

Treat as appropriate based on results

NO

● Infectious Disease approval required prior to ordering RPP
● Exception: Hospitalized Oncology Patients

TEST RESULT NEGATIVE

Do any of the following apply?

- Attending physician feels RPP will lead to an important change in management (i.e. discontinuation of antibiotics, avoidance of further testing)
- Patient is in PICU, NICU, or TCU, or plan to transfer to one of these units
- Patient has High-Risk Condition (see [Box 2](#))
- Patient is < 2 months old undergoing sepsis evaluation

NO

YES

● Can add on full RPP to sample collected

- Place RPP Order - LAB 00486
- Call the lab (314-268-2700 ext 5626) and request panel be performed sample already collected

OR

- Can Obtain RPP (LAB 00486) on new sample