BioReference LABORATORIES | genpath

OPKO Health Companies

Client Update

OCTOBER 2020 – COVID, INFLUENZA A/B

Test Name	Test Code	Effective Date
COVID-19, FLU A AND FLU B	**M123-8**	**October 19, 2020**

Differentiating COVID-19 patients from those with Influenza A or B (flu) will be especially important during the fall and winter months. Both types of infections can have very similar symptoms, and it may not be possible in many cases to differentiate based on clinical history alone.

BioReference Laboratories is now offering a multiplex test for COVID-19 and flu A/B, using a single sample. This allows for more rapid diagnosis, conserves critical testing supplies, and provides surveillance for flu and COVID-19. Identifying the correct infectious agent, especially in high-risk populations, will allow for early treatment and appropriate management. Other testing options for COVID-19 and flu continue to be available.

TEST INFORMATION	
Primary Container	Dacron-tipped plastic swab with universal transport media (BioReference Item # 510) Please refer to the most current CDC guidelines for further information on collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/ guidelines-clinical-specimens.html and the FDA FAQs on Diagnostic Testing for SARS-CoV-2 "What If I Do Not Have...?" www.fda.gov/medical-devices/ emergency-situations-medical-devices/fagsdiagnostic-testing-sars-cov-2
Minimum Volume	3mL universal or viral transport media (UTM/VTM) or saline
Turn Around Time*	3 days
Transportation Temp	Refrigerate (2-8°C)
Stability	5 days at 2–8˚ C 2 days at 2–25˚ C followed by 3 days at 2-8˚ C Frozen 30 days
Methodology	Multiplex Real-Time RT-PCR
Reference Range	Not Detected
Collection Instructions	Patients under investigation of COVID-19 and seeking evaluation of the disease will not be collected at BioReference Patient Service Centers. Specimen should be collected at physician offices, hospitals or other clinic settings. As of March 24, 2020, the FDA and CDC recommend collecting and testing an upper respiratory specimen with a nasopharyngeal collection (NP), placed in 3 mL of transport media, as the preferred choice for swab-based SARS-CoV-2 testing. If a NP specimen cannot be collected, nasal collection is acceptable. Label specimen with patient name. Place in specimen bag and label with "COVID-19" and submit to laboratory. **Oropharyngeal swab or pooled collection cannot be used for the multiplex COVID-19, Influenza A/B assay (M123).**
CPT Code(s)**	87636

REMINDER- Customer Satisfaction Survey	**N/A**	**N/A**

To help us continually improve our services, we ask that our valued clients complete a customer satisfaction survey. Please visit: bit.ly/BRCS2020 to take the survey. Completing this survey should only take about 5 minutes. Thank you in advance for your participation!

NOTES:
To subscribe to receive client updates via email, please visit http://bioreferencelabs.bioreference.com/go-green

** TAT is based upon receipt of the specimen at the laboratory.*
***CPT codes provided are based on AMA guidelines and are for informational purposes only. CPT coding is the sole responsibility of the billing party. Please direct any questions regarding coding to the payer being billed.*

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