

Hello,

On July 1, 2013, ASVL will begin running a Respiratory Viral Panel (RVP) on all the respiratory samples we receive. The panel contains 14 FDA approved “targets” and utilizes a multiplex PCR platform developed by GenMark Diagnostics. Here are a few reasons we feel this change will benefit you, your patients and respiratory viral surveillance in Alaska.

- PCR is **faster, more sensitive and more specific** than DFA and viral culture combined; in most cases, results will be available within 3 days of receipt at ASVL.
- ASVL will be **able to identify additional relevant respiratory viral pathogens** that can’t be cultured or identified by DFA.
- The **preferred specimen is a Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab in UTM**; please ship as before, on cool packs for receipt at ASVL w/in 7 days of collection.

The following “Targets” will be reported out as Positive or Target Not Detected .	
Targets	Comments
1 <i>Influenza A H1</i>	This year, the RVP includes the Influenza subtypes to the left. BUT , If you suspect your patient has a novel strain of Influenza because he/she has relevant travel history or contact with pigs or fowl, this information must be documented on the Fairbanks Lab Request Form so we can run additional tests.
2 <i>Influenza A H3</i>	
3 Influenza A 2009 H1N1	
4 <i>Influenza B</i>	
5 <i>RSV A (can be more severe)</i>	RSV is probably the most important cause of bronchiolitis, and pulmonary inflammation among infants and young children
6 <i>RSV B (often less severe)</i>	
7 <i>Parainfluenza 1</i>	Can cause upper & lower respiratory disease in infants & children
8 <i>Parainfluenza 2</i>	
9 <i>Parainfluenza 3</i>	
10 <i>Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV)</i>	A common cause of lower respiratory disease in children
11 <i>Rhinovirus (> than 100 subtypes)</i>	The common cold; can cause a serious co-infection
12 <i>Adenovirus group B (subtypes: 3, 7, 11, 14, 16, 21, 34, 35, 50, 55)</i>	Can cause severe respiratory disease
13 <i>Adenovirus group E (subtype: 4)</i>	
14 <i>Adenovirus group C (subtypes 1, 2, 5, 6, 57)</i>	Tends to cause less severe respiratory disease

- The APHL Lab Services Manual will be updated to reflect these changes and will provide more information.
- The Fairbanks Lab Request Form is being updated on our website and will be ready for use July 1, 2013.
 - Respiratory culture will be available for HSV when requested on the new Lab Request Form
 - Respiratory culture will be available for CMV when requested on the new Lab Request Form
 - Respiratory culture for Enterovirus identification will be available seasonally : June thru November