



October 17, 2022

Dear OSPHL Clients,

Beginning November 1, 2022, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) will begin using the Hologic Aptima Flu/SC2 NAAT assay for the detection of SARS-CoV-2, influenza A virus, and influenza B virus. This assay is an automated multiplexed nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) that detects the presence of nucleic acid from SARS-CoV-2, influenza A and influenza B viruses. This change will support patient management, public health surveillance, and outbreak investigations.

**Please share this notice with staff who order these tests or receive laboratory results.**

**What is changing?**

Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, to order SARS-CoV-2 or influenza testing at the OSPHL according to the “Criteria for Requesting COVID-19 Testing at the OSPHL”, you will select the Aptima Flu/SC2 NAAT test using a paper requisition, remote data entry, or your electronic data interface. Results for the Aptima Flu/SC2 NAAT test can be expected within 5 working days.

Please note the paper requisition for SARS-CoV-2 and influenza testing is being updated to remove data fields that are no longer required. We will send the updated form to submitters and post it to our website this month.

Please only collect specimens into Viral Transport Media (VTM). Saline is no longer an acceptable specimen media for SARS-CoV-2 and influenza testing.

**What is not changing?**

The acceptable specimen types are Nasopharyngeal (NP), Anterior Nares (AN), or patient-collected Nasal specimen, if collected in a healthcare setting. Please store and transport specimens as you currently do. OSPHL specimen receiving hours will continue to be Monday-Friday 7 AM – 5 PM and Saturday 9 AM – 12 PM.

Specimens testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 and influenza will be reflexed to SARS-CoV-2 sequencing or influenza subtyping if there is sufficient nucleic acid in the sample. Individual specimen testing priority will be determined by epidemiological significance and as capacity allows.

We hope that the timing of this message gives your facility enough time to implement any necessary changes. We will send another communication in October with additional details. If you have questions, please contact Macey Henning with questions at 503-693-4123 or leave a message with the OSPHL receptionist at 503-693-4100 and we will return your call.

Sincerely,

Melissa Powell  
OSPHL Business Director