

DOCTOR UPDATE - RESPIRATORY MULTIPLEX PCR & COVID-19 TESTING

November 2020

Turn-around time for Respiratory Multiplex PCR and COVID-19 testing

The information provided in the table below represents the triage process at Clinical Labs and the indicative turn-around time (TAT) of your requests.

Test ordering

If your patient has COVID-19 symptoms or is a 'close contact' which means they were near a person with COVID-19 while they were infectious, please clearly indicate COVID-19 on the request form to ensure you get a COVID-19 result. When ordered as a stand-alone test, the median TAT is 24 hours.*

COVID-19 may be ordered in combination with Respiratory Virus or Multiplex PCR and the TAT will vary depending upon the tests ordered, as represented in the table below.

Either collect the swab yourself or instruct the patient to present to a dedicated COVID-19 collection site. Please visit clinicallabs.com.au/coronavirus for list of sites.

Patient Self-Collection

To assist doctor and patient access to COVID-19 testing, Clinical Labs has a patient self-collection option available. Please contact our stores department to order pre-packaged kits and instructions.

Sample required

Only one swab sampling throat and both nostrils (2-3cm deep).

Cost

Medicare bulk billing available and subject to Medicare guidelines and criteria.

What to request	Tests	Turn around time
COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">COVID-19	24 hrs*
Rapid Flu	<ul style="list-style-type: none">COVID-19Influenza A & BRSV (A&B)	24 hrs*
Respiratory Viral Screen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">COVID-19Influenza A & BRSV (A&B)Parainfluenza 1, 2, 3, & 4Human MetapneumovirusHuman AdenovirusHuman Rhinovirus	24 hrs*
Multiplex PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">COVID-19Influenza A & BRSV (A&B)Parainfluenza 1, 2 & 3B. Pertussis/ B. ParapertussisHuman MetapneumovirusHuman AdenovirusHuman EnterovirusHuman RhinovirusMycoplasma pneumonia	48-72 hrs

*By close of business the following day.

Note: Some viral targets may be temporarily unavailable due to global reagent shortages.

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