

## RRH Laboratories COVID-19 Testing Guidance for Ambulatory Settings (August 23, 2021)

*This guidance is based on currently understood test performance characteristics and community prevalence. All testing modalities have false negatives; a negative test result never "guarantees" that the individual is COVID-free; if clinical circumstances warrant, consider repeat testing (immediate or later) with the most sensitive modality available*

|  | <b>Symptomatic Adult</b>   | <b>Symptomatic Child</b>  | <b>Asymptomatic RRH Pre-Op Testing</b>   | <b>Asymptomatic Exposure</b>   | <b>Asymptomatic Surveillance</b>   |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
|  |  |   | Generally 3-5 days prior to procedure; assumes no symptoms and no known exposure   | If high risk exposure warrants testing, recommend waiting until 5 days after exposure before testing         | For example, a school or work based surveillance program                                 |
| <b>Rapid Antigen (Nasal)</b><br><br>Lowest sensitivity and specificity (e.g. Binax NOW, Veritor). Performed in the community; not offered for RRH ambulatory testing | Positive is positive<br><br>For negative result, PCR confirmation warranted (NP swab)    | Positive is positive<br><br>For negative result, PCR confirmation warranted (NP swab preferred) |  | Positive is positive<br><br>Consider confirmatory PCR testing for negative test result if high risk exposure | Positive is positive<br><br>Be aware of high false negative rate                         |
| <b>Rapid Molecular (Nasal)</b><br><br>Significantly better than an antigen test (eg. Abbott ID NOW). Performed in the community and offered in limited RRH locations | Positive is positive<br><br>For negative result, PCR confirmation warranted (NP swab)    | Positive is positive<br><br>For negative result, PCR confirmation warranted (NP swab preferred) | RRH L & D Units<br>RGH/Unity OR's- STAT cases<br><br>Sensitivity COVID infection ~60-65%<br>Sensitivity asymptomatic <i>infectious</i> patient ~90%            | Positive is positive<br><br>Consider confirmatory PCR testing for negative test result if high risk exposure | Positive is positive<br><br>Be aware of high false negative rate                         |
| <b>Rapid PCR (Nasal)</b><br><br>Best rapid option (eg. Cepheid, Liat). Performed in the community but not yet offered by RRH Labs                                    | Positive is positive<br><br>Negative result does <u>not</u> warrant confirmatory testing | Positive is positive<br><br>Negative result does <u>not</u> warrant confirmatory testing        |  | Positive is positive<br><br>Negative result does <u>not</u> warrant confirmatory testing                     | Positive is positive<br><br>Negative result does <u>not</u> warrant confirmatory testing |
| <b>Lab PCR (Saliva)</b>  |  |   | Preferred sample type for ages 5 and above<br><br>Sensitivity COVID infection ~75%<br>Sensitivity asymptomatic <i>infectious</i> patient ~95%                  |  |  |
| <b>Lab PCR (Nasal)</b>   |  | NP swab preferred<br><br>Nasal swab acceptable if NP swab not tolerated by child (or parent)    | Alternate sample types when saliva collection not possible;<br><br>Sensitivity COVID infection ~70%<br>Sensitivity asymptomatic <i>infectious</i> patient ~95% | NP swab preferred<br><br>Nasal swab acceptable if NP swab not tolerated by patient                           |  |
| <b>Lab PCR (Nasopharyngeal)</b>  | Preferred  | Preferred   |  | Preferred  |  |