

MEMO

To: Asante and Community Healthcare Providers

From: Jessica Hoskins, MBA-HM, M(ASCP), Manager Laboratory Operations, Microbiology

Date: November 20, 2023

Subject: **COVID, Flu A/B and RSV Collection Container/Media Change**

Due to a revision in the manufacturer's instructions for use, Asante laboratories will be transitioning to M4 Universal Transport Media for COVID, Flu A&B and RSV testing. Saline will no longer be an acceptable specimen. This change is MANDATORY and will be completed once we receive the updated testing kits. In the interim, we will begin the transition to M4 media only starting in early December. This change does not affect the tests intended use, performance or reporting of results. However, saline will no longer be an approved collection media.

If you currently use M4 media you will not see a change.

If you currently use saline, we will begin distributing M4 media as soon as we obtain our supply and will send out further correspondence once we have made the complete transition.

The following are the test codes which have been impacted.

- Combination/Group Orders:
 - COVID, Flu A/B and RSV – LAB1232688
 - COVID & Flu A/B – LAB1232687
 - Flu A/B & RSV – LAB1235432
- Stand Alone Orders:
 - COVID Symptomatic only – LAB1232657
 - COVID Asymptomatic only – LAB1234590
 - Rapid Influenza A & B only – LAB1247
 - RSV only – LAB495

If you have any questions regarding this change in collection media, please contact:

- Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center: Heather Alvis, MS, MLS(ASCP), microbiology laboratory supervisor at (541) 789-6368
- Asante Three Rivers Medical Center: Glen Pogue, MLS(ASCP), laboratory manager at (541) 472-7178 or Mary Bishir, MLS(ASCP), microbiology laboratory lead
- Asante Ashland Community Hospital: Tom Arnold, MLS(ASCP), laboratory supervisor at (541) 201-4047