



Laboratory Services Important Test Announcement

INFLUENZA A H5, AVIAN BY PCR

New Test Code(s): H5N1

Live Date: 6/30/2025

- **Methodology:** rRT-PCR
- **Performed:** Daily
- **Turnaround Time:** 1 Day
- **Specimen Required:** Standard nasopharyngeal or conjunctival collection transported in Viral Transport Media (VTM)
 - **Specimen Preparation:** No special collection
 - **Storage/Transport/Temperature/Conditions:** Specimens can be stored at 4°C for up to 72 hours after collection
 - **Unacceptable Conditions:** Samples other than NP or conjunctival
 - **Comments:** This assay is designed to detect the Influenza A H5 variant in nasopharyngeal or conjunctival samples for screening purposes. CDC recommends subtyping of all Influenza A virus-positive specimens from hospitalized patients. At NCH, Influenza A virus-positive samples on hospitalized patients will be automatically tested for the Avian H5 variant if a subtype was not identified by the original test. This includes non-subtyped Flu A from the Respiratory Infection Array (FARVPP) and Influenza A-positive samples from the Influenza A/B and RSV by PCR (FLURSV) assay. The Influenza A H5 assay (**H5N1**) is also available as a standalone order but should be submitted as a unique collection.
 - **Reference Intervals:** Presumptive Negative

If you have any additional questions about **Influenza A H5, Avian Flu testing**, please refer to the Laboratory Test Directory or call Client Services at 614-722-5477.