

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON

Weekly Respiratory and GI Pathogen Reports

Winter is fast approaching and respiratory illnesses will soon be on the rise. Laboratory Services would like to remind you of the great practice tool we offer you to track respiratory and GI pathogens in the community.

When you visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Lab) make sure you check out the **Weekly Respiratory and GI Pathogens Reports** located near the bottom of the Laboratory Services home page.

To obtain weekly respiratory positivity reports on 11 pathogens such as RSV, Influenza, and Pertussis, and note respiratory illness trends in the Central Ohio area, simply click on the (1.) **Respiratory Pathogens Report** link on the Laboratory Services home page then click on the PDF that will download to your computer.

You can also obtain weekly GI positivity reports on 17 pathogens such as norovirus, rotavirus, and giardia/cryptosporidium, and note GI illness trends in the Central Ohio area. The report represents positive test results from the GI Film Array panel and individual stool infectious disease tests (i.e. Rotavirus antigen). It does not include results from the general stool culture. Simply click on the (2.) **GI Pathogens Report** link on the Laboratory Services home page then click on the PDF that will download to your computer.

Preparing for this Respiratory Illness Season

Along with the COVID-19 virus, flu and other community acquired respiratory viruses will be prevalent in your office in no time. In preparation for the respiratory illness season, Laboratory Services would like to encourage you to check your expiration dates on your swabs and viral transport media provided to you.

Due to the nationwide shortage of viral transport media and swabs, you may notice variability in the viral collection supplies you receive from us. Most of the viral transport media we provide can be stored at room temperature, but some needs to be refrigerated. Please check the storage temperature printed on the media vial to ensure proper storage. In addition, swabs supplied to you from Nationwide Children's Hospital may also be arriving in packaging from vendors you are not used to seeing.

****IMPORTANT TO KNOW****

- Please check the Laboratory Guide to Services for sendout testing as not all viral transport media is acceptable for the sendout tests.
- For respiratory collections, there are many different brands of flocked nasopharyngeal swabs that are provided.
- If a non-nasopharyngeal is needed for the test collection, please request a polyester swab with your supply order.
- **All viral transport media must be refrigerated between 2° C – 8° C after sample collection.**

For more information about viral media transport collection supplies, please call Client Services at (800) 934-6575.

Order Supplies

Laboratory Services will provide your office with supplies for the collection of specimens (blood, body fluids, tissue) that you send to us. >

1. Respiratory Pathogens Report

Check out the weekly respiratory pathogens report. [View Report >](#)

2. GI Pathogens Report

Check out the weekly GI pathogens report. [View Report >](#)

Respiratory and GI Pathogens Report links located on the Laboratory Services website home page



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™

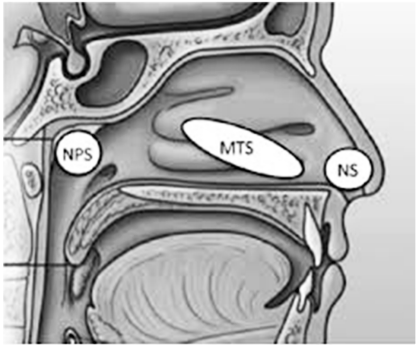
INFORMATION TO KNOW

Respiratory Virus Collection Conundrum

At times, you may ask yourself, “What’s the difference between collecting viral cultures from the anterior nares and the posterior nasopharynx?”. Logically, you would think that respiratory viruses would be found in the same areas of the nose since the nasopharynx is just few inches beyond the anterior nares depending on the patient’s age.

Not really...

For some respiratory viruses, particularly RSV, the tropism (cells and tissue of a host which support growth of a particular virus or bacteria) of the virus is for the ciliated epithelium at the back of the nasopharynx. Collection of anterior nares therefore will theoretically lessen the sensitivity of the testing for certain respiratory viruses. In addition, none of the FDA cleared molecular tests are verified for use of anterior nares swab collections.



NPS = Nasopharynx (posterior) swab

MTS = Mid Turbinate swab (< 2 years of age)

NS = Nasal (anterior) swab

It is very important to select the correct swab and method of collection when testing for respiratory viral infections to ensure accurate sample analysis and reporting of patient results. If you are a client of Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Services, viral kits are provided to you that contain instruction kit guidelines to help you successfully obtain an optimum sample.

Collecting Specimens for Respiratory Infection Array Testing

There may be times when it is important to perform a more comprehensive and sensitive test for respiratory pathogens in the outpatient setting. The Respiratory Infection Array, is a real-time PCR assay that detects eight viral and four bacterial targets.

When collecting specimens for Respiratory Infection Array testing, the provider must collect a posterior nasopharynx specimen using a sterile flocked swab supplied in the Viral Transport Media Collection Kit provided by Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Services at the time of the office visit. Instructions on how to collect NP specimens are supplied in the Collection Kits. **Specimens collected from any other source other than the nasopharynx are not acceptable.** In addition, NP swab collections cannot be collected by lab technologists at the Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Service Centers.



For more information regarding test availability, specimen requirements, or to order collection kits, call (800) 934-6575 or visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/Lab).



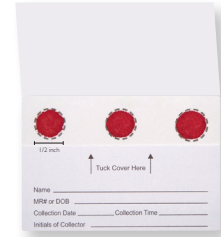
INFORMATION TO KNOW

Lead and Hemoglobin Screening

Nationwide Children's laboratory Services offers a blood lead and hemoglobin* screening test using a filter card. Both tests ordered together only requires three circles filled with blood on the filter card. Collecting these tests on the same card reduces patient distress, provides a quick collection, gains a higher patient compliance, and is very easy to transport.

Collection using the Lead and Hemoglobin Filter Card has these benefits:

- Improves patient compliance
- Simple fingerstick collection method
- Specimens can be mailed to our laboratory
- Quick turn-around time is usually 2 to 3 days upon receipt in the lab
- A terrific value-added service for your practice



**This assay is considered a screening test. The results may vary from a whole blood CBC due to different methodologies. Laboratory Services recommends follow-up testing be performed, if clinically warranted, using a non-filter card test.*

When collecting blood filter card samples for lead or hemoglobin screening, proper technique is crucial so that you are ensured reliable results in a timely manner. Submitting unacceptable blood filter card samples will often result in a phone call to your office for recollection and delay of results.

Unacceptable Blood Filter Paper Card Samples

Front Back

Insufficient Sample:
The blood drop is not of adequate size.

Front Back

Blood Wiped on Filter Card - Non Uniform Sample:
The filter paper was touched by the finger surface. Blood did not soak through to the back of paper and multiple blood drops were applied.

Front Back

Blood from other source:
A capillary tube or other device was used to transfer the sample. The drops do not soak through to the back side of the filter paper and multiple blood drops were applied.

Ideal Blood Filter Paper Card Samples

Front Back

- 2 blood circles provide an ideal sample for analysis.
- The free falling drop(s) will soak through to the back side of the filter paper.

Note: The front and back of each circle is saturated evenly.

Punched 1/8 inch diameter sample is removed from card for testing.

Acceptable Blood Filter Paper Card Samples

Front Back

Dashed circles are only a guide for sample size - off-center drop is acceptable

Front Back

Barely acceptable sample - minimum drop size is 1/3 inch in diameter

For questions or to obtain blood filter cards, please call Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575.

INFORMATION TO KNOW

STAT Testing Available at a Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Service Center Near You

Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Services offers an extensive menu of STAT testing at many of the Laboratory Service Centers in Ohio. No matter what time of day, you can count on Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Client Services department to call you with all critical and alert values within minutes of test completion! As an added bonus, you can access ChildLink, Laboratory Service’s secure online access center to tests, lab services and results anytime day or night! If you would like more information on STAT testing in your area or ChildLink, contact Laboratory Client Services at (800) 934-6575.

Laboratory Service Centers that Perform STAT Testing:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| • Canal Winchester
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> | • East Broad
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> | • Lewis Center
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> | • Springfield
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> |
| • Dublin
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> | • Hilliard
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> | • Marysville
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> | • Westerville
<i>Close To HomeSM Center</i> |
-

Cold Weather Specimen Storage Reminder

With the changes in weather temperatures, keep an eye out for those days and evenings when outside temperatures dip below freezing. It is important that samples placed in a lockbox outdoors prior to transport to the laboratory be maintained at the appropriate temperature. If refrigerated samples are stored in the lockbox, a **non-frozen gel pack** stored at room temperature should be placed in the lockbox to prevent the samples from freezing while left outside during the winter. The cold pack should not be frozen, since you do not want refrigerated whole blood samples to freeze.

Many laboratory tests performed at Nationwide Children’s Laboratory Services require adequate refrigeration of specimens. By following this lockbox practice, you will help insure the integrity of the samples and ultimately obtain reliable laboratory results.

.....

Placing Lab Orders in Your EMR System

When placing an order in your EMR system, it is important to answer the questions on order-entry, such as source of specimen for cultures and urinalyses or race and type of puncture for lead testing. Without these answers, the order remains pending in ChildLink, doesn’t print a requisition and label, and requires a call to the office. Even if the patient is being sent to one of our Laboratory Service Centers, these answers need to be sent to ChildLink in order for the order to process and print a ChildLink requisition.

.....

Reminder: ChildLink Access for Employees No Longer in Practice

For security purposes, it is important to notify Laboratory Services at (800) 934-6575, as soon as an employee with ChildLink access (Laboratory Services online access center for tests) leaves your practice. Calling us as soon as possible ensures that previous employees are deactivated from ChildLink in a timely manner. Also, your Laboratory Services Account Representative would like to hear from you when new physicians or practitioners join your staff or if you have moved location(s). Having the most current information about your office demographics and practitioners, ensures prompt turnaround time of patient’s lab reports.

INFORMATION TO KNOW

No Age Cap for Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services!

Six great reasons to use our lab for patients young and old!

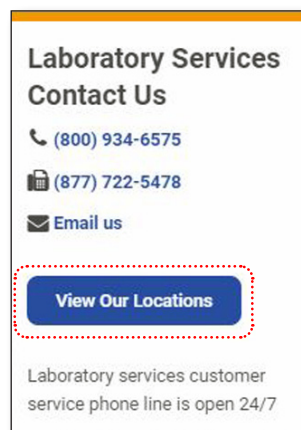
- 1. 16 Convenient Locations** – There are 16 Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Centers and *Close To Home* Laboratories throughout Ohio. In addition to normal business hours, the *Close To Home* Urgent Care facilities with laboratory services and selected Laboratory Service Centers have Saturday and Sunday draw hours and extended hours during the week for anyone who needs a blood draw or simply drop off a specimen for testing.
- 2. Trained Pediatric Phlebotomists** – Like pediatric patients who have challenging blood draws or who are very anxious, adult patients can be challenging and anxious too. At our facilities, you can expect exceptionally trained pediatric phlebotomists and lab technicians that will always provide special care and attention to your patient, young or old.
- 3. Micro-Sampling** – Because we use micro-sampling instrumentation to allow for more accurate results on small samples, many of our lab tests can be drawn by capillary fingerstick. i.e. lipid profile, vitamin D-25 hydroxy, thyroid profile, metabolic panels, and much more.
- 4. Time sensitive results** – Every test is time sensitive, so we ensure testing always begins as soon as possible after the sample is received. Our tests are processed around-the-clock and our staff can be reached 24 hours a day.
- 5. Full range testing** – A comprehensive range of more than 1,000 pediatric laboratory test are available to you and your patients, including pediatric specialty testing such as molecular testing for cancer, infectious diseases and neuromuscular disorders.
- 6. Pediatric reference ranges** – It takes special expertise to understand pediatric reference ranges. It takes even greater expertise to develop them. Our customized pediatric reference ranges ensure personalized diagnosis and treatment in every test we perform.



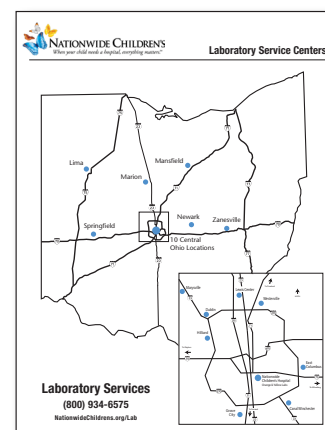
Looking for Printable Maps of Our Laboratory Service Centers?

Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services offers three easy ways for your office to obtain maps for your patients of our Laboratory Service Centers with contact information and hours of operation on the back page.

1. Contact your Account Representative.
2. Call Client Services at (800) 934-6575.
3. Visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Lab](https://www.NationwideChildrens.org/Lab) and click on "[View Our Locations](#)" on the right side of the Laboratory Services home page located in the "Laboratory Services - Contact Us" section. Click on the navy blue "View a Map of All Laboratory Services Locations" box where a PDF file of the Laboratory Service Centers location map will download to your computer.



Laboratory Services website home page snippet



Laboratory Services Location Map



**NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S**

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™

Nationwide Children's Hospital
700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2664

How can Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services help your practice?

- Pediatric pathologist consults on lab results
- Wide acceptance of insurance plans
- Pediatric reference ranges
- Services to enhance the laboratory process in your practice
- Interface compatibility with provider EMR systems



If you would like to become a client or learn more information about Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services, contact us at (800) 934-6575 or visit our website at NationwideChildrens.org/Lab.

Would you like to receive the Nationwide Children's Laboratory Services Newsletter electronically? Please e-mail us at LaboratoryServices@NationwideChildrens.org and let us know!