

RAPID INFLUENZA A/B AND RSV EIA TESTING

Now that we are in the “off-season” for Influenza and RSV, we are shifting our protocol from Rapid Immunochromatographic (IC) and EIA testing to Immunofluorescent (DFA) staining.

- When the prevalence rates are low (1-2% or less), the predictive value of a positive rapid test result, by EIA or IC, is less than 15%. Therefore, you will have more false positives out of season.
- The rapid testing kits will *not* detect parainfluenza or adenovirus, which are the two viruses prevalent at this time.
- DFA staining *will* detect the presence of Parainfluenza, Adenovirus, Influenza A and B, and RSV.
- We are seeing an *occasional* RSV through the use of DFA stains *only*. (None are being detected by rapid testing.)

The DFA stains will be performed once on the day shift and once on the evening shift.

The DFA stain for respiratory viruses is now an orderable test in Ulticare. You may also order virus cultures.

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