



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** OSF HealthCare Laboratory Customers and Clients

**FROM:** OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory

**DATE:** March 6, 2020

**RE:** **Respiratory Viral Culture Testing at Mayo Clinic Laboratories**

Effective immediately, Mayo Clinic Laboratories has discontinued their respiratory viral culture testing (VRESP, LAB4851) to prevent inadvertent culture of SARS-CoV-2 (the causative agent of COVID-19), and are recommending that patient testing be performed via the PCR method. Once the viral culture testing is available at Mayo again, notification will be sent out to all OSF HealthCare Customers and Clients.

OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center Laboratory performs a Respiratory Pathogen Array PCR test in-house on the BioFire FilmArray<sup>®</sup> (RESPA, LAB2944) on nasopharyngeal specimens (only). If the patient's specimen is a bronchial-alveolar lavage (BAL) or a bronchial washing, PCR testing is available at Mayo. Mayo's test for BAL's and bronchial washings is the Respiratory Pathogen Panel, PCR (GENOR, LAB2333 - RESLR). For any other specimen types (tissue, etc.), per Mayo Clinic Laboratories, there are no recommended alternate tests at this time due to the potential risk of culturing COVID-19.

OSF HealthCare's Respiratory Pathogen Array test does **not** detect the virus associated with COVID-19. If COVID-19 is the suspected viral agent, the (non-OSF) patient provider should complete the CDC's PUI paperwork and work with their local health department for patient testing. For OSF patient providers, please reach out to your local OSF Infection Prevention teams for specific guidance.

For more information, please follow the links below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

<https://newsroom.osfhealthcare.org/osf-healthcare-remains-on-alert-for-covid-19/>

***For any questions pertaining to this information, please contact:***

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