

TECHNICAL

June 2022

COVID-19 Antigen Test

Effective July 15, 2022, COVID antigen testing will be discontinued at Methodist Pathology Center.

Changes:

The COVID-19 Antigen test (CPT 87426) will be discontinued and no longer available to order at Methodist Pathology.

The alternate test performed at Methodist Pathology is: COVID-19 by PCR (CPT 87635).

Alternate Order: 2019 Novel Coronavirus by PCR

Specimen Requirements:

- Nasopharyngeal or Nasal swab submitted in at least 1-3ml viral/universal transport media (UTM, VTM).
- Do not use cotton or calcium alginate swab, or swab with wood shafts.
- Samples can be stored at room temperature (15–30 °C) for up to 4 hours and 2-8°C for up to 72 hours before testing. Freezing @ -70°C is required for specimen storage or transportation beyond 72 hours.
- Unacceptable Conditions: Sputum, BAL, and samples not received in universal or viral transport media. Swabs received in the COVID Ag inactivation buffer cannot be used for PCR testing.

Test Performed: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, results available in 24 hours

Please direct any questions to Dr. Karre, Director of Microbiology, at 402-354-7842 or LaNett Whisler, Microbiology Service Leader at 4-4586.