

Laboratory Testing for Persons Who May Be Infected with a Novel Respiratory Virus

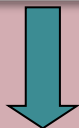
Intended for use in Emergency Departments and Ambulatory Care Settings

Always follow Routine Practices including a Point of Care Risk Assessment

TEST

Refer to relevant [Saskatchewan Public Health Updates](#) for additional testing requirements

Patient presents with an acute respiratory infection (ARI)¹



- Complete appropriate laboratory requisition and order respiratory screen
- Include information about recent travel (e.g. countries visited, date of return) on the requisition
- Collect viral nasopharyngeal swab **AND** viral throat swab in universal transport media
- When clinically indicated, also collect:
 - Sputum C&S
 - Serum for *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and *Chlamydia pneumoniae*
 - Stool for viral studies

Patient presents with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI)¹



and



- Complete appropriate laboratory requisitions **AND** [SARI requisition](#)
- Collect a lower respiratory sample² in cases of SARI with negative nasopharyngeal swab
- If initial samples are negative, consider submitting another lower respiratory sample
- Collect a blood culture
- Arrange other testing as recommended by ID Specialist, internal medicine consultant, or Medical Health Officer.

Specimen Handling and Transport

- Ensure airborne/contact precautions are used when performing aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMP)
- Refer to SDCL Compendium of Tests to arrange for STAT testing:
<http://sdcl-testviewer.ehealthsask.ca>.

1. Always remember to initiate appropriate infection prevention and control measures when patient presents with ARI or SARI before continuing with the initial assessment. Refer to [Infection Prevention and Control Measures and Initial Management of Persons Who May Be Infected with a Novel Respiratory Virus](#) found at:
<http://www.saskatchewan.ca/live/health-and-healthy-living/health-care-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/infection-prevention/infection-prevention-and-control-program>
2. 2. Lower respiratory sample: Includes throat swab, sputum, endotracheal aspirate, bronchioalveolar lavage (BAL).