

Inpatient Respiratory Virus Streaming Guide

Testing, Isolation & De-isolation Guidance

Acute respiratory virus symptoms (not otherwise explained) including any of the following:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Acute respiratory illness with onset in past 5 days
- New cough or acute worsening of chronic cough

Yes

No

No requirement
for isolation

Place patient in Respiratory Precautions (Standard)

Isolate Patient for
FIVE days from onset
of symptoms

Immunocompromised
patients:
Isolate for 10 days

To deisolate follow
guidance on page 2

Placement in Single Room* or area with increased ventilation

Test for COVID-19 with RAT.

If negative and symptoms persist continue Respiratory
Precautions (Standard) and re-test at 24 and 48 hours***

CHL will determine seasonal testing based on local
epidemiology

- SUMMER TESTING** - COVID-19 with RATS only
- WINTER TESTING - COVID-19, Influenza A or B & RSV

Testing for clinical purposes**

Patients are only eligible for PCR testing if RAT negative and:

- Severely unwell requiring ICU admission
- Oncology/Haematology/CHOC patient
- Paediatric patient (severe illness where the result will change patient management)
- Immunocompromised patient**

Testing for respiratory pathogens as usual diagnostic processes may still be performed as per clinician judgement and may be discussed with a Clinical Microbiologist

Please include clinical details on all request forms for PCR. Specimens that are received without clinical details will be rejected.

Routine PCR is batch tested daily Mon-Fri at 11:00am. Turnaround time 24 hours Mon-Fri and up to 3 days Sat-Sun.

* Single rooms include multi-linear bed spaces with dividers pulled

** Significant immunosuppression (irrespective of vaccination status), including current chemotherapy, solid organ transplant, taking rituximab, CHOC/BMTU patient, or by SMO discretion

*** If symptoms persist and RAT remains negative, continue Respiratory Precautions (Standard) and consider alternative diagnosis.

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De-Isolation of Acute Respiratory Viruses

Is the patient FIVE days past symptom onset
(10 days in immunocompromised** patients) AND respiratory symptoms are improving?

Yes

Considerations for de-isolation
Is the patient severely
immunocompromised **
AND persistent infection suspected?

No

De-isolate to Standard Precautions
(no further testing required)

Yes

Discuss with IPC or IMS as required

No

Continue isolation in
Respiratory Precautions (STANDARD).
Discuss with IPC or IMS as required

NOTE:

When patients are de-isolated – use Standard Precautions.

During patient care, use PPE according to task to protect wearer from blood and body fluid exposure including respiratory secretions.