CDC-APHL RESPIRATORY Syncytial Virus (RSV) REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION FOR THE 2023-2024 RESPIRATORY SEASON

Dear colleagues,

As you know, the United States is experienced an early and very active respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) season last year. RSV is a leading cause of hospitalizations among young children. RSV is classified into two circulating subgroups A and B. CDC and APHL are seeking public health laboratories that are willing to participate voluntarily in an initiative to support the establishment of systematic and ongoing molecular surveillance for RSV in the United States.

Surveillance specimens submitted to CDC will be critical to analyze national and global circulating RSV trends, increase publicly available viral sequence data, and expand the representative repository of viruses available for further characterization. Moreover, the 2023-2024 RSV season will serve as a pilot year to help determine future RSV surveillance needs in the United States and will provide baseline data prior to the expected introduction of RSV vaccine in the relatively near future.

CDC and APHL will share results of further surveillance testing with the submitting laboratory director when these data are available. RSV genetic sequence data will be made publicly available in GenBank and/or to the submitting laboratory upon completion of aggregate analysis (usually done once or twice a year).

Participating laboratories are not required to have RSV subgroup assays. However, laboratories interested in implementing RSV subgroup real-time RT-PCR assays should contact RespVirus@cdc.gov

Shipping costs will be paid for up to four shipments. Shipping guidance is included in appendix 2.

If there are any questions, please contact the CDC Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division, Laboratory Branch:

    Email: RespVirus@cdc.gov
    Phone: 404-639-1196
    COVID-19 and Respiratory Viruses Laboratory Branch
    Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division /NCIRD/CDC

Sincerely,

Natalie J. Thornburg, PhD
Chief laboratory branch
Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

And

Clinton Paden, PhD
Lead, Molecular Investigation and Surveillance Team
Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
RSV Appendix 1

Specimen Submission Guidance

CDC-APHL RSV molecular surveillance pilot project

Please use the following guidance for RSV surveillance specimen submission:

1. Ship the 10 representative RSV positive specimens with CT <28 quarter 3 or 4 to CDC as soon as possible. Please proceed to send an additional 10 specimens each quarter.
2. For each shipment, please submit positive specimens representative of your seasonal activity including geography, time, severity, outbreak-associated and a mix of RSV A/B subgroups, if you perform subgroup testing.
3. Please only submit one representative specimen per outbreak. (As a reminder, if your state needs assistance with any RSV-related or suspected outbreak, CDC is available to provide assistance, support, and technical consultation, as appropriate)
4. Acceptable specimen types include upper and lower respiratory specimens: NP or OP swabs, oral swab, throat swab, anterior nasal swabs in viral transport media (VTM), nasal aspirates, nasal washes, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), other lower respiratory tract aspirates, and virus isolates obtained from clinical specimens.
5. Please send original clinical material with a volume of 0.6mL – 1.0mL. Specimen can be aliquoted in a leakproof, screw-cap vial or shipped in its original collection container (e.g., VTM tube). All specimen containers should be properly labeled with a unique identifier and securely sealed to avoid spillage and breakage.
6. Prior to shipping, specimens can be stored refrigerated (2-8°C) up to 3 days, and/or frozen (≤ -15° C) for longer term storage.
7. Specimens should be shipped on dry ice to CDC Mondays-Wednesdays to avoid weekend delivery.
8. For all specimen submissions to CDC, each specimen must be accompanied by a completed GFAT (Global File Accessioning Template). If you need assistance accessing the current GFAT, it can be provided upon request. Include the appropriate CDC test code: CDC-10400 Respiratory Virus (Non-Influenza) Special Study.
9. Shipment address:
   
   ATTN: STAT LAB  
   C/O Unit 232  
   Molecular Investigation and Surveillance Team / CORVD  
   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
   1600 Clifton Rd, NE  
   Atlanta, GA 30329  
   Email: respvirus@cdc.gov