



LABORATORY ALLIANCE
of Central New York, LLC

**New PCR Assay for the Diagnosis of COVID in RRL
Patients from Nasopharyngeal Specimens
(COVID Only Assay)**

Effective Tuesday, **September 20, 2022**, the Rapid Response Laboratories (RRL) at St. Joseph's Health (SJH) and Crouse Hospital (CH) will be offering a real-time, PCR assay for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in nasopharyngeal specimens. This new, monoplex test only screens for SARS-CoV-2 in patients suspected of having or being screened for COVID. The multiplex, PCR Quad Assay that tests for Flu A, Flu B, RSV, and SARS-CoV-2 will continue to be available at the RRLs for symptomatic patients only.

The monoplex PCR assay is appropriate for testing the following patients **only** when its necessary to have results available in less than 2 hours:

- SJH and CH asymptomatic obstetric (OB) patients
- SJH and CH asymptomatic patients being admitted (direct admits)
- SJH and CH pre-procedural patients who did not receive pre-admission testing (PAT)
- SJH and CH patients pending discharge to a nursing home based on bed availability

This test is not intended to replace the 5 hour **COVID** assay or the 24 – hour **SRSCV** and **CVH** assays currently being performed at the Laboratory Alliance Operations Center.

NOTE: Ask on Order Entry (AOE) questions will not be required for the new CVD assay. Laboratory Alliance will be discontinuing the AOE questions for all COVID-19 test batteries in the near future. A separate notification will be distributed at that time.

Test:	COVID Only Assay
Test code:	CVD
Method:	Real-time PCR



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Specimen requirements:	Nasopharyngeal specimen collected on a flocked or dacron tipped swab placed in Universal Transport Medium (UTM) or other Viral Transport Medium (VTM)
Unacceptable Conditions:	Any swab other than Dacron or flocked swabs and any transport media other than UTM such as Molecular Test Medium (MTM)*, saline, or phosphate buffered saline (PBS) Calcium alginate swabs should not be used and wooden applicator shafts are not acceptable for testing
Transport and Stability:	Room temperature (15-30°C) for up to 48 hours or refrigerated (2-8°C) for up to 7 day
Schedule of Testing:	Daily, 24/7
CPT Code:	U0003
Billing Codes:	COR: 3010470 SJH: 3020588 CH: 22653126

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to Jodi LLippke at 315-410-7230 or JodiLippke@lacny.com.