



Technical Bulletin

Discontinuation of RSV Antigen Testing

TO: Medical Staff and Clients

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SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) Antigen testing

Effective 12/29/2025, Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Inc. (DLS) will discontinue RSV antigen testing (**Test Code 6668**) and transition fully to RSV PCR (nucleic acid amplification testing; NAAT).

PCR-based testing has become the preferred method for RSV detection because it offers consistently higher analytical sensitivity across all age groups and clinical presentations. Unlike antigen assays, which may vary in performance depending on viral load, NAAT methods provide reliable detection early in the illness course and in patients with lower viral burden. Transitioning to RSV PCR ensures standardized, high-quality testing for all patient populations.

Test Performance Comparison (Manufacturer Data):

Test	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)
RSV PCR (Cepheid)	98.6% (92.5–99.8%)	100% (99.9–100.0%)
RSV Antigen (BD)	88.4% (82.8–92.4%)	98.3% (96.8–99.1%)

DLS offers several RSV PCR ordering options to allow clinicians to select the most appropriate test for their patients. All testing is performed on the Cepheid GeneXpert platform and both nasopharyngeal and anterior nasal swabs are acceptable specimen types.

Test Name*	Test Code
RSV by PCR	6254
Influenza & RSV by PCR	8033
Influenza & COVID-19 & RSV by PCR	8019

* Clinicians utilizing an EMR system may receive a prompt or alert when selecting multiple individual respiratory viruses.

For additional information on other respiratory disease testing, please refer to the DLS Technical Bulletin: *Respiratory Disease Testing Updates* also dated December 10, 2025.

Please refer any questions to Jason Pon, Manager - DLS Molecular Laboratories at 808-441-5469 or DLS Client Services at 808-589-5101.