



CSF Pathogen Panel Multiplex PCR to be Temporary Sendout Test

Effective Date: November 11th, 2020

Contact: Customer Care

Update Description:

Due to test manufacturer-associated supply chain issues, the IU Health Division of Clinical Microbiology will be temporarily referring cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens received for the multiplex PCR component of the CSF Pathogen Panel test (CSF Path Panel) to ARUP Laboratories. In-house testing will resume once testing supplies become available, which is anticipated to be the week of December 7, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***What is the difference between the in-house CSF multiplex PCR test and the ARUP Laboratories CSF multiplex PCR test?***

There is no difference: the same pathogens are detected by both tests. However, because specimens must be transported to ARUP Laboratories for testing, please expect a <72-hour result turnaround time.

2. ***How should tests be ordered and specimens be collected and submitted?***

Test ordering, specimen collection, and specimen transportation should continue to follow standard procedures used for in-house CSF Pathogen Panel testing. Please refer to the IU Health Pathology Laboratory Test Directory for more information.

3. ***Are there other tests that can be ordered in place of the CSF multiplex PCR?***

Unfortunately, there are no other rapid tests that can identify all of the pathogens that are detectable by the CSF multiplex PCR test. However, care providers should consider ordering stand-alone HSV-1 and -2 PCR (HSV 1,2 DNA QL by Real-Time PCR [HSV12RT]) and stand-alone enterovirus PCR (Enterovirus Detection QL PCR [EnterPCR]) if clinical findings are consistent with either HSV- or enterovirus-associated central nervous system infections.

Questions:

If there are any questions on test requirements or ordering, please call IU Health Pathology Laboratory Customer Care at 317.491.6000 or 800.433.0740. For any additional concerns or questions pertaining to CSF Pathogen Panel Multiplex PCR testing, please contact Dr. Ryan Relich, Section Director, IU Health Clinical Virology Laboratory (rrelich@iuhealth.org).