



## **Rotavirus Antigen Testing to be Discontinued on February 1, 2021**

**Effective Date:**  
February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**Contact:** Virology

### **Test Update:**

On February 1, 2021, the IU Health Clinical Virology Laboratory will discontinue rotavirus antigen testing.

### **Answers to questions you, the care provider, may have:**

#### **1. Why is rotavirus antigen testing being discontinued?**

The availability of nucleic acid-based detection methods (e.g., PCR) that offer very high analytical sensitivity and that permit detection of other pathogens (e.g. norovirus, sapovirus, etc.) that cause bacterial diseases identical to that caused by rotavirus has rendered antigen-based rotavirus testing obsolete.

#### **2. What test should be ordered instead?**

If rotavirus is suspected to be the cause of a patient's gastroenteritis, the Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel by PCR (GPP) should be ordered. This test detects rotavirus A in addition to other pathogens that cause gastroenteritis.

#### **3. How should specimens be collected and submitted?**

Stool specimens should be collected in a clean, sterile container and submitted to the IU Health Pathology Laboratory as soon as possible after collection. Please refer to the IU Health Laboratory Test Directory for more information regarding specimen acceptability and transportation requirements.

### **Test Directory Link**

Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel by PCR: <https://www.testmenu.com/iuhealthlab/Tests/1035323>

### **Questions:**

If there are any questions on test requirements or ordering, please call IU Health Pathology Laboratory Client Services at 317.491.6000 or 800.433.0740. For any additional information, please contact Dr. Ryan Relich, Section Director, IU Health Clinical Virology Laboratory by email at [rrelich@iuhealth.org](mailto:rrelich@iuhealth.org) or [rrelich@iupui.edu](mailto:rrelich@iupui.edu).