

## *New Rapid Influenza A and B Test to Replace Rapid Antigen Testing*

Effective, November 23rd, 2015, St. John Providence Laboratory will replace the current Binax Now Rapid Influenza A and B antigen detection test with the Alere™ i Influenza A & B assay. The Alere™ i Influenza A & B assay is a rapid molecular-based method that specifically detects the virus RNA. The new Alere™ i Influenza A & B assay has very high sensitivity and specificity of the test for both influenza A and influenza B.

**As in the past, this test is not on our STAT menu and will not be offered for STAT courier pickup or processing.**

Another improvement of this new test is that instead of requiring a nasopharyngeal sample for analysis, which is very uncomfortable for your patients, the new test uses a nares swab.

### Collection Instructions:

- Carefully insert the swab into the nostril exhibiting the most visible drainage, or the nostril that is most congested if drainage is not visible.
- Using gentle rotation, push the swab until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril).
- Rotate the swab several times against the nasal wall then slowly remove from the nostril.
- Once the sample is obtained please place the swab into its tube, and **refrigerate** the samples until courier pickup.
- Please note that this is a single use swab, and that no additional testing can be performed using this specimen
- Or link to this YouTube video for a visual instruction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cd4gg975ao>

Please use only the swab provided to you, shown in the image below, which is obtained through the St. John Providence Supply Department.



If you have any questions regarding the new Alere™ i Influenza A & B assay, please contact, Ted E. Schutzbank, PhD, at 313.343.3239.