Yearly Switch to Winter Version of Respiratory Pathogen Algorithm
As of November 1, 2018, Geisinger Medical Laboratories will make its yearly switch to our Winter Respiratory Pathogen Panel Testing Algorithm.

INFLUENZA AND RSV TESTING
For Out-patients: Use test code ABRP (Flu A/B RSV PCR), available to lower costs for healthy out-patients. ABRP is performed by all 8 Geisinger hospitals, Geisinger South Wilkes Barre, and our large Regional Laboratory Out-patient Sites (Grays Woods, Lewistown, Pottsville, Mt. Pocono, and Tunkhannock).

FULL RESPIRATORY PANEL TESTING
For Pre-admissions and Inpatients: Use test code RPPCR (Respiratory Pathogen PCR), performed by GMC, GWV, GSACH, GBH, GCMC, GLH, and GHS laboratories.
RPPCR testing includes: adenovirus, coronaviruses: 229E, HKU1, NL63, and OC43, rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus, influenza A (subtypes H1, 2009 H1, and H3), influenza B, parainfluenza virus types 1-4, RSV, Bordetella pertussis, Chlamydia pneumoniae, and Mycoplasma pneumoniae.

NOTE: For high-risk out-patients, RPPCR is an option. To avoid billing complications for out-patients, please avoid ordering ABRP and RPPCR on the same day.

FOR BOTH TESTS
- Collect a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab
- Nasal swabs are NOT recommended (lower accuracy, especially for RSV)
- Immediately place swab in Universal Transport Media (UTM) and transport at 2-8°C (on ice)
Respiratory View

In CDC Week 44, rhinovirus/enterovirus is the predominant virus, followed by parainfluenza virus, and adenovirus. Influenza is rare to non-existent in our service region.