

MULTIPLEX TESTING PROGRAM UPDATE

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is sending out an update regarding the **Multiplex Testing Program**. The purpose of the Multiplex Testing Program (MTP) is to assess the benefit of simultaneously testing for COVID-19, Flu A, and Flu B versus testing solely for COVID-19, given that these illnesses present very similarly.

MDHHS will now utilize the **Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B** test for the Multiplex Testing Program.

- This test utilizes an anterior nasal or nasopharyngeal swab to collect the specimen from persons showing symptoms of having COVID-19 or Influenza.
- There is no analyzer utilized with this test.
- There is a tutorial/training [video](#) to view before you begin testing on the **Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B** website.

Please continue to use any supplies of **BD Veritor** you have remaining. MDHHS does still have a limited supply of the **BD Veritor** test analyzers for those that may need an additional one.

Schools are **required** to have one of the following in order to participate in the Multiplex Testing Program:

- School nurse
- School health/wellness center

Important things to **remember/complete** prior to using the new Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B tests:

- Continue to report positive COVID-19 test results to [Michigan Antigen Testing](#) portal as well as report positive Flu A&B to your Local Health Department. Contact the Communicable Disease Division at your Local Health Department for reporting requirements.
- For schools with their own existing CLIA certificate, please be sure to add the **Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B** test to your list of approved tests. This can be done by completing the following:

- Written notification or a CMS 116 application may be emailed to LARA-BSC-CLIA@michigan.gov or faxed to (517) 763-0214.
 - Laboratory name
 - CLIA number
 - Name of laboratory director **AND** owner
 - The change(s) being made – old information, new information, and effective date of the change.
 - Signature of the laboratory director or their designee (someone with the authority to make changes)
- For schools covered under the Michigan Department of Education CLIA certificate, no further action is needed.

Please continue to use the [MI Safer Schools: School DISTRICT Antigen COVID Test Ordering Form](#) to submit your requests for the new Multiplex test. Any additional questions can be directed to MDHHS-COVIDTestingSupport@michigan.gov.

Respectfully,

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
COVID-19 Testing and Collection Coordination Team
MDHHS | Public Health Administration



Multiplex Testing Program Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B Test Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What do you need to know about COVID-19 and Influenza testing with the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B test?**
 - a. The Status™ COVID-19/ Flu A&B is authorized for use in individuals who are suspected of respiratory viral infection consistent with COVID-19 by their healthcare provider within the first five (5) days of symptom onset when tested at least twice over three days with at least 48 hours between tests.
 - b. Consistent with serial testing recommendations for SARS-CoV-2, for multi-analyte tests such as the Status™ COVID-19/ Flu A&B, symptomatic individuals who test positive for influenza A or B on the initial test but test negative for SARS-CoV-2 should be tested again in 48 hours to evaluate for co-infection with SARS-CoV-2. Please refer to the healthcare provider instructions for use for more information on serial testing
- 2. When should the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B test be used?**
 - a. Symptoms for common respiratory conditions including COVID-19 and influenza can be very similar. The Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B test should be used on individuals presenting with these symptoms.
- 3. What does it mean if the specimen tests positive for COVID-19 and one or both influenzas?**
 - a. Yes, it is possible for an individual to be infected with influenza A virus, influenza B virus, and/or SARS-CoV-2 simultaneously. A positive test result for the viruses that cause COVID-19 and influenza A and/or B indicates that antigens from these viruses were detected, the patient may be co-infected, and is presumed to be contagious. Patient management decisions should be made with a healthcare provider and follow current CDC guidelines.
- 4. How is testing done using the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B test?**
 - a. This test utilizes an anterior nasal or nasopharyngeal swab to collect the specimen from persons showing symptoms of having COVID-19 or Influenza. There is no analyzer utilized with this test.
- 5. How long do results take to process?**

- a. The Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B should be visually read in 15 minutes from collecting the sample.
- 6. How many Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B tests come within each box?**
 - a. There are 25 Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B tests in each box.
- 7. What are the reporting requirements for the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B test?**
 - a. **For schools:** please continue to report positive COVID-19 test results to Michigan Antigen Testing portal as well as report positive Flu A&B to your Local Health Department. Contact the Communicable Disease Division at your Local Health Department for reporting requirements.
 - b. **For skilled nursing facilities:** please continue to report positive COVID-19 test results to the NHSN and/or your Local Health Department. Contact the Communicable Disease Division at your Local Health Department for reporting requirements.
- 8. Does the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B test replace the COVID-19 Point of Care tests?**
 - a. No, the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B does not replace the COVID-19 Point of Care (POC) Antigen tests. COVID-19 POC Antigen tests are still available to order from MDHHS.
- 9. How do I dispose of tests after testing is complete and/or once expired?**
 - a. After testing is completed and/or once they expire, please dispose of the Lifesign Status COVID-19 Flu A&B tests like regular waste.

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