

Molecular Diagnostics Update

TOPA Diagnostics is pleased to announce the availability of rapid molecular testing for infectious diseases. Utilizing a variety of nucleic acid amplification platforms, TOPA can provide highly sensitive and specific assays, with same day turnaround times.

Our current menu of molecular assays includes the following:

Target Organism	Specimen Source	Comments
Pertussis	Nasopharyngeal swab	Molecular testing is the most accurate method for laboratory diagnosis.
Group A Streptococcus	Throat swab	Molecular testing is more sensitive than culture, and may be used in place of rapid antigen testing or for patients with negative rapid antigen results, instead of culture
Influenza	Nasopharyngeal swab	Molecular testing identifies influenza A, B, and 2009 H1N1, and is the most accurate method for laboratory diagnosis.
Chlamydia/gonorrhea	Urine, vaginal swab, or ThinPrep pap sample	Molecular testing is recommended by the CDC as the preferred method of diagnosis.
Vaginosis/vaginitis panel	Vaginal swab	DNA probes identify Candida, Trichomonas, and Gardnerella
HPV	ThinPrep pap sample	Molecular testing identifies high-risk HPV, with genotyping results for HPV types 16 and 18
FilmArray GI panel	Stool sample	Molecular testing identifies 22 GI pathogens
FilmArray Respiratory panel	Nasopharyngeal swab	Molecular testing identifies 20 Respiratory pathogens
C. difficile	Stool sample	PCR for C.difficile and the hypervirulent 027/NAP1/BI strain

In general, analytical turnaround time for rapid molecular assays is 1-2 hours. For samples collected in the morning, results will generally be available the same day. For samples collected in the afternoon, results will generally be available by 9:00 the next morning. (Note: longer processing is required for ThinPrep pap samples.)

For more information, please call Edward Blackman MD or the TOPA Diagnostics client service staff at 805-373-8582.