**Respiratory PCR testing:**

**The following procedure must be followed**

**Fast Track Respiratory PCR specimens**

This service is for **urgent** processing of Respiratory swabs for COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2), Influenza A &B and RSV.

1. Create electronic order for **Respiratory Multiplex PCR (Flu, COVID, RSV)** or **FAST TRACK Nose & Throat swab (Coroavirus)**
2. Take Nasopharyngeal/nose & throat swab, using green top Virocult swab.
3. Place ordercomms label on form and sample. Place sample into integral form bag, and seal.
4. Place request form/bag with sample into Fast Track blue bag

**Note: one sample per bag, DO NOT place multiple samples into Fast track bags.**

1. Fast Track samples can be sent to lab via pod or porter.
2. Results will be available on Review as soon as completed.

**Notes:**

* There is limited capacity for Rapid testing at ESLs.
* Samples are processed in order of arrival.
* Where multiple samples received at the same time, there will be delay in processing until analyser space available.
* There is no overnight Fast Track service provision.
* Samples received overnight, will be held until next morning.
* Where number of samples exceeds capacity, excess samples will be sent across to Hub for processing.

**Routine/Non urgent Respiratory PCR specimens**

This service is for **non-urgent** processing of Respiratory swabs for COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2), Influenza A &B and RSV e.g. for whole ward testing where outbreak suspected.

1. Create electronic order for **Respiratory Multiplex PCR (Flu, COVID, RSV)** or **COVID-19 Nose & throat swab**
2. Take Nasopharyngeal/nose & throat swab, using green top Virocult swab.

**Note:** other sample types can also be sent e.g. sputum.

1. Place ordercomms label on form and sample. Place sample into integral form bag, and seal.
2. Place request form/bag with sample into secondary bag (usually a clear sealable plastic bag).

**Note: DO NOT use blue Fast Track bags for such requests. Multiple samples can be sent together in this case.**

1. Samples can be sent to lab via pod or porter.
2. Results will be available on Review as soon as completed.

**Notes:**

* Samples will be processed as analyser space becomes available.
* Fast Track samples take priority for analysers at ESLs
* Results may take up to 24 hours depending on current workload volumes.
* There is no overnight service provision.
* Samples received overnight, will be held until next morning, then sent to Hub for processing.