



To: Members of the Medical Staff

From: Robert Ridenour, III, MD
Chemistry Section Medical Director

Date: January 15, 2018

Subject: Influenza Testing at Sacred Heart – change from PCR to Antigen test

Due to a national shortage of cartridges for our Cepheid PCR test for influenza, Sacred Heart Hospital Laboratory will be switching to the Sophia influenza antigen test within the next few days.

The Sophia influenza antigen test has been validated at Sacred Heart Hospital and has performance capabilities similar to the Cepheid PCR test, except for slightly lower sensitivity. The Sophia test is currently the standard test used across the HSHS System and is currently used at St. Joseph's Hospital.

We are in the midst of "Flu Season" and patients with symptoms compatible with flu can be treated based on symptoms alone.

Please feel free to contact the lab if you have any questions.