

TO: Cone Health Hospital Providers

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DATE: October 26th, 2017

SUBJECT: **New Flu PCR Assay and Updated Specimen Requirements**

The Cone Health hospital laboratories will convert to the Cepheid Xpert Xpress Flu PCR assay on October 31st, 2017. This new assay provides early assay termination for positive results and will reduce turnaround times on Flu A and Flu B PCR.

On site testing will be available at Alamance Regional, Annie Penn, Moses Cone, and Wesley Long.

This new assay has only been approved by the FDA for testing on nasopharyngeal swabs. **The laboratories will no longer accept nasal washings for Flu PCR testing.**

For further information, please contact the following:

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