

March 11, 2009

The NYS Proficiency Testing Program is pleased to send you this new format analysis and critique of the January 2009 Direct Antigen Detection events.

Your laboratory's Evaluation Report is available at <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/doh3/applinks/eptrs/> and can be printed for your records. Evaluation Reports are NO LONGER sent to each laboratory.

Federally mandated validation criteria require a sample to be correctly identified by at least 80% of participating laboratories. All five samples in the rotavirus, respiratory syncytial virus and influenza virus panels were validated. All sample identities in each panel were also confirmed by reference laboratories. CLIA and CLEP establish a passing grade for participating laboratories at 80% or greater. The enclosed analyses include Virology General permitted laboratories that perform direct antigen detection, and Direct Antigen Detection Only permitted laboratories.

Please be aware of the following notes:

- Please be sure to "Submit" test results. Keeping results as "Saved" only is considered non-participation for the event and will automatically result in a failing grade in the electronic system.
- Generic worksheets are provided for your optional use. Please do not return these worksheets to us. Generic worksheets can also be printed via the HPN (<https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/doh3/applinks/eptrs/>).
- Please carefully select the Test Specificity for the Influenza Direct Antigen Detection test that your facility uses for this PT event. Influenza Direct Antigen Detection participants MUST enter responses in the *Test Specificity* and *Test Method (kit)* fields on the reporting page. You are responsible for selecting the correct test specificity for the test kit you are using. **In this category, scoring is linked between test specificity and answer choice. Therefore, it is imperative that this field is filled in correctly or scoring for your laboratory will be adversely affected.**

Please Note: Participation in EPTRS is mandatory. Laboratories must submit test results electronically by logging in to: <https://commerce.health.state.ny.us/doh3/applinks/eptrs/>, entering their results, and clicking the "Submit/Attest" button on the EPTRS Summary Page.

We hope you find the additional data enclosed with this letter informative, and would appreciate any feedback. Please contact us with any questions or concerns at (518) 869-4540.

