**Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions**  
*Influenza, Culture (Cx) (Version 1)*  
**Page 1 of 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Collection Time</th>
<th>Collection Frequency</th>
<th>Collection Procedures</th>
<th>Transport Media</th>
<th>Shipping &amp; Handling (S&amp;H)**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Nasopharyngeal (NP)*                 |                          |                      | • Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.  
• Immediately after collection, place swab directly in 2-3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM).  
• **Minimum volume**: 2 ml of VTM.                                      | Viral Transport Media (VTM)  | • **Transport device**: Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.                        |
| Throat (THR)                         | At illness.              |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Rejection Criteria**: Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft. |
| Dual NP/THR*                         | For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset. | NA                    | • Collect in sterile container (see transport device) into a sterile vial with 2–3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM).  
• **Minimum volume**: 1 ml of sample plus VTM.                  |                                 | • **Transport**: Refrigerate and ship to arrive at WAPHL during business hours within 72 hrs of collection. Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B. |
| Nasal swabs                          |                          |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Storage**: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Nasal aspirate or wash*              |                          |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Transport device**: Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.            |
| Tracheal aspirate                    |                          |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Rejection Criteria**: Not transported in VTM.                           |
| Bronchial lavage (BAL)               |                          |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Transport**: Refrigerate and ship to arrive at WAPHL during business hours within 72 hrs of collection. Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B. |
| Bronchial aspirate or wash           |                          |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Storage**: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Sputum                               |                          |                      |                                                                                       |                                 | **Transport device**: Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.            |
| Lung tissue                          | NA                       |                      | • Collect and place in VTM.                                                            | Viral Transport Media (VTM)      | **Rejection Criteria**: Not transported in VTM.                           |

(Additional Specimen Type on page 2)

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  Last Revised: March 2015*
## Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions
### Influenza, Culture (Cx) (Version 1)

**Page 2 of 3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Collection Time</th>
<th>Collection Frequency</th>
<th>Collection Procedures</th>
<th>Transport Media</th>
<th>Shipping &amp; Handling (S&amp;H)**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Viral culture     | NA              | NA                   | Isolate from culture. | VTM             | • **Transport device**: Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.  
|                   |                 |                      |                       |                 | • **Transport**: Refrigerate and ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice.  
|                   |                 |                      |                       |                 | Ship as Category B.  
|                   |                 |                      |                       |                 | • **Storage**: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of shipping, freeze at ≤-70°C.  |

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  Last Revised: March 2015*
General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Did not obtain CDE approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:
Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient’s county of residence, second identifier, and date of onset.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.
- Reason for testing at WAPHL.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments

- For patients with severe lower respiratory tract disease, a lower respiratory tract specimen (e.g., BAL or tracheal aspirate) should be collected in addition to an upper respiratory tract specimen (e.g., NP/THR swab, nasal aspirate or wash).
- The preferred specimen type for detection of H5N1 virus is a throat swab.
- For medical examiners, please see: http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/mefluguide.pdf

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  Last Revised: March 2015