<table>
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<th>Specimen Type</th>
<th>Collection Time</th>
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<th>Transport Media</th>
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| Nasopharyngeal (NP)*                | At illness.              | • 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)                        | For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.                     |                                                                                       |                                 | • Rejection Criteria: Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft.                        |
| Dual NP/THR*                        | 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.                                                                              | • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.    |
| Nasal swabs                         |                          |                                                                                       |                                 |                             |
| Nasal aspirate or wash*             |                          |                                                                                       |                                 |                             |
| Tracheal aspirate                   |                          |                                                                                       |                                 |                             |
| Bronchial lavage (BAL)              |                          |                                                                                       |                                 |                             |
| Bronchial aspirate or wash          |                          |                                                                                       |                                 |                             |
| Sputum                              |                          |                                                                                       |                                 |                             |
| Lung tissue                         | NA                       | • Collect and place in VTM.                                                             |                                 |                             |
|                                     |                          | • **Minimum volume:** 2 ml of 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
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| 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. If you are an ILI-Net Provider, please see “Influenza RT-PCR, Surveillance”

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