

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Influenza RT-PCR, Diagnostic (Version 2)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Naso-pharyngeal (NP)*	At illness.  For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft.</li> <li>Immediately after collection, place swab directly in 2-3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM).</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 2 ml of VTM.</li> </ul>	Viral Transport Media (VTM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.</li> <li><b>Rejection Criteria:</b> Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft.</li> <li><b>Transport:</b> 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.</li> <li><b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>
Throat (THR)					
Dual NP/THR*					
Nasal swabs					
Nasal aspirate or wash*			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect in sterile container (see transport device) into a sterile vial with 2–3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM).</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 1 ml of sample plus VTM.</li> </ul>		
Tracheal aspirate					
Bronchial lavage (BAL)					
Bronchial aspirate or wash					
Sputum	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect and place in VTM.</li> <li><b>Minimum volume:</b> 2 ml of VTM.</li> </ul>			
Lung tissue					

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Viral culture	NA	NA	Isolate from culture.	VTM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport device:</b> Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.</li> <li>• <b>Transport:</b> Refrigerate and ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B.</li> <li>• <b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of shipping, freeze at ≤ -70°C.</li> </ul>

(Additional Specimen Type on page 2)

**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 nasopharyngeal swab.
- For medical examiners, please see: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/mefluguide.pdf>