### Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

**Influenza RT-PCR, Surveillance (Version 1)**

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| Nasopharyngeal (NP)* | At illness. | NA | • 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.  
• **Rejection Criteria:** Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft.  
• **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. |
| Throat (THR) | For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset. | NA |  |  |  |
| 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. |  |  |
| Nasal swabs |  | NA |  |  |  |
| Nasal aspirate or wash* |  | NA |  |  |  |
| Tracheal aspirate |  | NA |  |  |  |
| Bronchial lavage (BAL) |  | NA |  |  |  |
| Bronchial aspirate or wash |  | NA |  |  |  |
| Sputum |  | NA | • Collect and place in VTM.  
• **Minimum volume:** 2 ml of VTM. |  |  |
| Lung tissue | NA | NA |  |  |  |

(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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### Influenza RT-PCR, Surveillance (Version 1)

**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**
Available only to ILI-Net Providers. If you are an ILI-Net Provider, please see mailroom (link below), and ask for influenza kit.

[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthLaboratories/MailRoom](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthLaboratories/MailRoom)

**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](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*