

# 2015 West Nile Virus Surveillance

## Protocol for Dead Bird Monitoring

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Washington State Department of Health  
Zoonotic Disease Program

# Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

## Handle Dead Birds Safely

- ▶ Follow personal protection guidelines in the CDC *Interim Guidance for Surveillance for WNV and/or Highly Pathogen H5N1 Avian Influenza*

- ▶ This guidance is in the CDC West Nile Virus in the United States: Guidelines for Surveillance, Prevention, and Control - Appendix 3

[www.cdc.gov/westnile/resources/pdfs/wnvGuidelines.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/resources/pdfs/wnvGuidelines.pdf)

# Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

## Handle Dead Birds Safely

- ▶ Avoid bare-handed contact. Use disposable impermeable gloves to pick up carcass. If gloves are not available, use an inverted double-plastic bag technique for picking up the carcass or use a shovel to scoop it into a plastic bag.
- ▶ Under wet conditions in which splashing or aerosolization of viral particles is likely, safety goggles or glasses and a surgical mask may be worn to protect mucous membranes against splashed droplets and particles.

# Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

## Handle Dead Birds Safely

- ▶ If disposing of the carcass, wrap in double plastic bags and place in a garbage can that is secured from access by children and animals.
- ▶ If the carcass will be submitted for testing, hold it in a cool location until pickup. Carcass should not be held in close contact with food (e.g., household refrigerator or picnic cooler).
- ▶ Discard or disinfect any PPE used (e.g., gloves, safety glasses, mask) when done.
- ▶ Wash hands with soap and water.

# Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

## Two Collection Methods: Swab and Carcass

- ▶ Corvid oral swab sample using Whatman Indicating FTA® Micro Card
- ▶ Non-corvid carcass
  - ▶ For testing approval contact:  
David Kangiser  
360.236.3064  
david.kangiser@doh.wa.gov

# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

## About the Whatman Indicating FTA<sup>®</sup> Micro Card

- ▶ Indicating FTA card provides a convenient method to collect and isolate nucleic acid samples for analysis
- ▶ Apply biological sample to the FTA matrix and the nucleic acids are instantly captured and stabilized

# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

## About the Whatman Indicating FTA<sup>®</sup> Micro Card

- ▶ Pathogens are inactivated, making samples safe to handle and ship via standard mail
- ▶ Indicating FTA card changes color from pink to white when sample is applied

# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

## About the Whatman Indicating FTA<sup>®</sup> Micro Card

- ▶ Indicating FTA card is suitable for samples collected from crows, jays, magpies, and other **corvids** known to have a high viral concentration in oral secretions
- ▶ Cards have a shelf-life of 3 years

# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

- ▶ **Always** wear gloves while handling dead birds and FTA cards
- ▶ Complete a **dead bird reporting form** for each bird and note identification number (Local ID)

# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

- ▶ Place the FTA card on a clean, dry, flat surface.
- ▶ Label card with Local ID and submitting agency
- ▶ With swab in one hand, open the bird's beak with the other hand



**Attention:** Always wear gloves when handling FTA cards and avoid touching the pink sample area of the card.

# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

▶ Insert foam tip into oral cavity and swab the top, sides, and back of mouth and throat

▶ Soak up as much saliva as possible

**Note:** Thaw out frozen birds completely before swabbing.



# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

▶ Carefully lift the paper cover of the FTA card to expose the pink sample area. Press the foam tip within the center of the sample circle area

▶ Roll tip side-to-side to completely saturate sample area

**Note:** It's not necessary to saturate the entire sample area, just the center portion.



# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

▶ Sample area will turn white indicating the transfer of the sample

**Note:** Don't reuse the swab after tip has touched the FTA card.



# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

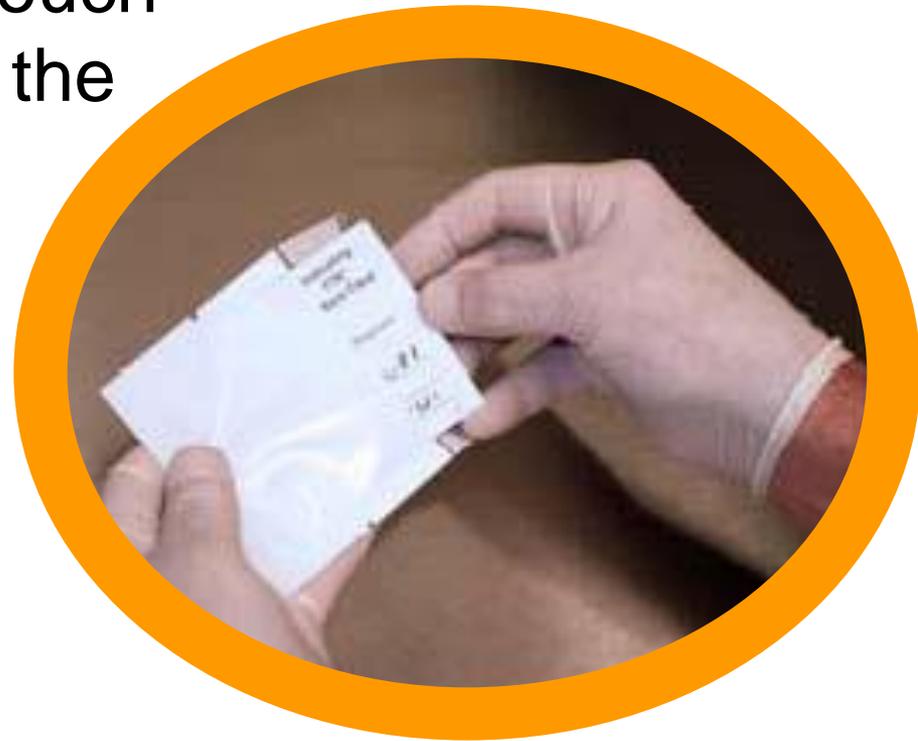
- ▶ Position the FTA card for drying by supporting the sample area with the paper cover as shown
- ▶ Allow the card to dry for 1 hour
- ▶ Appropriately bag and dispose of the bird, swab, and gloves



# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

▶ To transport, place the FTA card into a multi-barrier pouch and seal by folding along the perforated line

**Note:** Only one FTA card is to be placed in a multi-barrier pouch.



# Corvid Oral Swab Protocol

- ▶ Place pouch with the completed **dead bird submission form** into an envelope and mail to WADDL



# Submitting Oral Swab

**Mail to:**

Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
Washington State University  
Bustad Hall, Room 155-N  
Pullman WA 99164-7034

# Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

DOH West Nile Virus Website

[www.doh.wa.gov/wnv](http://www.doh.wa.gov/wnv)

Search for “West Nile Virus Resources and Tools”

- ▶ Look under “Surveillance Tools”
  - ▶ Dead Bird Surveillance Protocol & Dead Bird Submission Form

# Dead Bird Monitoring Protocol

Questions? Please contact

David Kangiser  
Zoonotic Disease Program  
Washington State Department of Health

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