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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.  
                                                                  • 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                   | • 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.                                                                 | Viral Transport Media (VTM)      | • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container with VTM.  
                                                                  • Rejection Criteria: Not transported in 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Dual NP/THR*          |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Nasal swabs           |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Nasal aspirate or wash* |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Tracheal aspirate     |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Bronchial lavage (BAL) |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Bronchial aspirate or wash |             | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Sputum                |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |
| Lung tissue           |                         | NA                   | • Collect and place in 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.  
                                                                  • 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.  
                                                                  • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. |

(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: May 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: May 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 nasopharyngeal 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: May 2015