

New York State Department of Health Virus Reference and Surveillance Laboratory

Collection and Submission of ~~Swine Origin Influenza A (H1N1) Virus (S-OIV) Specimens~~

HISTORY AND SPECIMEN LABELING Fill in NYSDOH Virus Detection History Form (DOH-1795) as completely as possible noting testing is for a suspect case of S-OIV infection. Do not ask for "virus studies". Provide the date of onset of illness and collection date for the specimen. Each specimen should be labeled with patient name, and the date and time collected.

RESPIRATORY TRACT SPECIMENS Respiratory specimens should be collected as soon as possible in the course of illness. The likelihood of recovering most viruses diminishes markedly >72 hours after symptom onset. Collect one nasopharyngeal swab or nasopharyngeal aspirate or nasopharyngeal wash, for submission to the Wadsworth Center for molecular testing. Note: preferred specimen is nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport medium. **Use Dacron or rayon swabs with a fine-tip flexible metal shaft, or NP flocked swab with flexible plastic shaft, for nasopharyngeal swab. Do not use calcium alginate or wooden-shafted swabs. Place swab in sterile vial containing 2 ml of viral transport medium. Keep sample cold (4°C) after collection.**

- **Nasopharyngeal swabs:** Use a swab with a fine, flexible metal shaft and Dacron or rayon tip, or a flocked swab with long, flexible, plastic shaft, specific for nasopharyngeal swab sample collection. Insert swab into posterior nasopharynx. Rub swab against mucosal surface and leave in place for 5 seconds to absorb secretions. Collection of specimens from both nostrils increases amount of material available for analysis. Place swab in a vial of viral transport medium. Use scissors to cut metal shaft, or snap plastic shaft of flocked swab, so that top of vial can be screwed on tightly.
- **Nasopharyngeal aspirate:** Requires source of suction (syringe, vacuum pump, or wall suction), specimen trap with two outlets, and catheter (no. 6 to 14 depending on size of patient). Without applying suction, insert catheter through nose into posterior nasopharynx (approximately the distance from tip of the nose to the external opening of the ear when measured in a straight line). Apply gentle suction, leaving catheter in place for a few seconds, then withdraw slowly. Suction contents of a vial of viral transport medium or non-bacteriostatic saline through catheter tubing to assist in moving material from tubing into trap and to add viral transport media to specimen. Transfer specimen to a screw cap tube for transport to laboratory.
- **Nasopharyngeal wash:** Use rubber bulb (1-2 oz for infants) or syringe to instill 3-5 ml of non-bacteriostatic saline into one nostril while occluding the other. If patient is able to co-operate, instruct them to close glottis by making a humming sound with mouth open. If a rubber bulb is used, release pressure on bulb to allow saline and mucus to enter bulb. Remove from nose and squeeze into vial of transport media. If syringe is used, apply suction to syringe to recover saline and nasal secretions. Alternately, hold sterile container such as urine cup under patient's nose and ask patient to expel material into it. In either case, add recovered saline-nasal secretions to a vial of viral transport media

Shipping of Samples for Virus Isolation

It is essential that specimens be sent to the Viral Reference and Surveillance Laboratory at the Wadsworth Center Griffin Laboratory as soon as possible after collection. If shipped within two days of collection, store at 4°C post-collection and ship with cold packs to maintain temperature at 4°C. Do not use wet ice. If shipment is delayed >2 days, then the specimens should be stored frozen at -70°C and shipped on dry ice. All original paperwork must be complete and accompany each specimen.

- It is the shipper's responsibility to ensure that appropriate shipping materials are used. Please contact your carrier for shipping and packaging information. Patient specimens and virus isolates must be shipped as either Category A or Category B infectious substances consistent with IATA and DOT guidelines.
- For refrigeration, use commercially available frozen ice packs. Do not use wet ice. For frozen specimens, use dry ice.
- All specimens must be shipped "Priority Overnight" and received within 24 hours via chosen carrier.
- Serum samples may be shipped at room temperature. Please contact your carrier for shipping and packaging information.
- Culture isolates should be shipped frozen, on dry ice. Please contact your carrier for shipping and packaging information.

Shipping Address:

Specimens that are shipped through the US Postal Service:

Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH
Virus Reference and Surveillance Laboratory
David Axelrod Institute
PO Box 22002
Albany, NY 12201-2002

Specimens shipped through UPS/Fed Ex/other courier services:

Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH
Virus Reference and Surveillance Laboratory
120 New Scotland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

***To order additional collection kits and history forms, please contact your Local Health Department.**

Please specify:

S-OIV Specimen Collection Kit

Order Number

DOH-483-1