

## Influenza Virus Collection Protocol

### Sentinel Site Kits

#### Specimen Collection:

Specimen should be collected within 3 days of onset of symptoms.

Use only Dacron swabs provided. (Do not use wood or calcium alginate swabs.)

**Preferable Specimen:** Nasopharyngeal Swab

Acceptable Specimen: Nasal swab, pharyngeal swab, nasal aspirate/wash

Collect swab (or aspirate) and place in viral transport medium.

Break shafts of swabs to permit closure of tube with screw cap.

Screw cap on tube securely to avoid leakage.

Label each specimen with patient's name and collection date.

**Refrigerate specimen(s) until ready to ship.**

#### Shipping:

**Mail specimens only Monday-Thursday** using overnight delivery or state courier.

Package each specimen individually in a biohazard bag with absorbent paper.

**Complete the request form entirely** and place in the biohazard bag pocket.

Multiple specimens collected the same day may be shipped in the same shipping container.

Place frozen ice packs in with the specimens to maintain at 4°C.

Close container and seal with tape.

If sending by courier, write WPHL on the side of the box.

Ensure that courier knows the specimens require refrigerated transportation.

**NOTE:** Store all transport media according to package instructions.

Store collected specimens at 4°C until shipment!

**SPECIMENS MUST ARRIVE AT THE LABORATORY WITHIN 24-48 HOURS OF COLLECTION.**

If specimens are collected on Friday or the weekend, refrigerate the specimens until they can be mailed on Monday.

If you have any questions concerning collection or shipment, please call the Influenza Lab at 307-777-6064.

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