

INFLUENZA SPECIMEN COLLECTION

LDH OPH Laboratory Specimen Collection and Shipping Guidelines for Influenza Testing

September 2017

INFLUENZA PCR

Collect sample as soon as illness is suspected. Check expiration date on viral transport media. Do not use if media is expired. Acceptable specimen types include:

Upper respiratory tract specimens

- Nasopharyngeal swabs [NPS]
- Nasal swabs [NS]
- Nasal aspirates [NA]
- Nasal washes [NW]
- Dual NPS/Throat swabs [NPS/TS]

Lower respiratory tract specimens

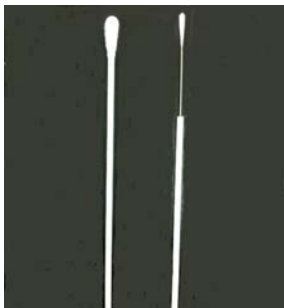
- Bronchoalveolar lavage [BAL]
- Bronchial wash [BW]
- Tracheal aspirate [TA]
- Sputum
- Lung tissue

Place swab samples in viral transport media tube. Leave swab in viral transport tube.

Aseptically dilute liquid sample with an equal volume of viral transport media.

Label specimen with Patient Name and Medical Record Number.

Complete **Lab Form 96**. Make sure Patient Name and Medical Record Number match what is on the transport tube.



Swab on the left is for nasal or throat samples. Swab on the right is for nasopharyngeal samples



Leave swab samples in viral transport.

**NEW SUBMITTERS MUST
HAVE SECURE FAX FORM
ON FILE BEFORE REPORT
RELEASE**

**For a secure fax form, call Ha
Tran at 225-219-5268.**

Website

For additional information about Influenza PCR testing, please refer to our website: <http://lab.ldh.louisiana.gov>

- OPH Laboratory A-Z Clinical and Biological Test List
- Influenza virus, Real-time PCR, Detection and Characterization

Shipping

Place samples in an insulated container and ship Category B with completely filled out Lab Form 96.

Ship for Overnight delivery: If specimens will be received within 72 hours from collection, ship refrigerated. If specimens will be received greater than 72 hours from collection, freeze specimens at your facility and ship on dry ice.

If sample is frozen, please document a freeze date and time on the Lab Form 96

Ship to: LDH OPH Lab—Molecular/Virology
1209 Leesville Avenue
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225-219-5263