

## CDPHE Laboratory Services Division Swine Flu Testing FAQs

### Should 2 nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs be collected, one for rapid testing and one to be placed in viral transport media for the State Lab if the rapid flu test is positive for Influenza A?

Yes, collection of two swabs is recommended, as the State Lab cannot use the swab which has been used for the rapid flu test. Please ensure that either state or local public health has been contacted prior to sending specimens (CDPHE Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program – 303-692-2700, after hours - 303-370-9395).

### How should specimens be submitted?

A nasal wash can be submitted in a sealed, sterile container. NP or throat swabs should be placed in viral transport media. All specimens should be refrigerated at 4 degrees C for storage and shipping to the State Lab.

### When we run out of our rapid influenza test kits, can we have physicians send samples directly to the CDPHE State Lab for rapid testing?

No, the State Lab does not have rapid influenza test kits to perform this type of testing.

### Are there any changes in the State Lab's current testing schedules we need to be aware of, such as extended laboratory hours?

At this time (4/28/09) there are no plans to extend laboratory-testing hours at the State Lab. However, as the outbreak situation changes, the lab is prepared to adjust testing hours as needed. Any change in laboratory testing hours will be communicated via the HAN.

### Our laboratory does not have viral transport media; does the State Lab provide these to us?

The State Lab does not provide viral transport media. Hospital and other clinical laboratories can purchase M4 Viral Transport Media from a variety of vendors. Below is a vendor, which the CDPHE Laboratory Services Division uses:

Diagnostic Hybrids

1-800-344-5847

Transport Media UTM RT with swabs:

Catalog/Stock # 303CHL

<http://www.dhisa.com/laboratories/index.php?page=73>



### Where can the local public health departments purchase nasopharyngeal NP swabs?

BD Viral Transport Systems with swabs: <http://www.bd.com/ds/productCenter/CT-ViralTransport.asp>

☛ **Product #220222** package of 50, with transport media & NP swab

Order directly through distributor at:

#### **Fischer Scientific**

<http://www.fishersci.com/wps/portal/SEARCHRESULTS?ru=http%3A%2F%2Fprodwcserver%3A9060%2Fwebapp%2Fwcs%2Fstores%2Fservlet%2FSearch&searchPref=no&position=search&preferProd=unchecked&searchType=Rapid&catalogCode=null&keyWord=220222&catCode=ALL>

#### **Cardinal Health**

<http://www.cardinalhealth.com/us/en/distributedproducts/ASP/4320220.asp?cat=surgerycenter>

### We primarily use foam Pur Wrap NPH swabs on hand. Will that work for your influenza testing?

These swabs are fine for testing, as long as they do not have a wooden shaft, and are transported in viral transport media at 4 degrees C.

### Does the State Lab confirm the H1N1 swine influenza virus?

The State Lab confirms the virus presence and then samples are referred to CDC for subtyping confirmation. However, the State Lab expects to be receiving reagents from the CDC to perform subtyping next week (5/4 – 5/8)

### What is the address for sending influenza specimens for confirmation to the CDPHE State Lab?

It is best to send specimens so they arrive at the lab during business hours (8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Mon-Fri).

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