



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

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| Influenza Laboratory Submission Information Sheet | |
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| Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC: | Influenza-associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza-like illness, and Novel Influenza A are reportable immediately |
| Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen: | Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens from cases suspected or identified as being novel influenza or influenza positives that are not able to be subtyped |
| Required Information: | Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN HETL REQUISITION Requisition form: PDF |
| Specimen Requirements: | Preferred: 1) Nasopharyngeal swab, 2) Throat swab, 3) Nasal wash Other Acceptable specimens: 4) Lower respiratory specimens (bronchial wash), 5) Nasal aspirate, 6) Sputum |
| Collection Instructions: | Request Influenza Collection Kit from HETL Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media provided in the kit. Do not use wooden swabs or calcium alginate swabs. ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used. |
| Specimen Handling and Transport: | Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. For faster turn around time to obtain results, consider hand delivery to HETL. Use wet ice or cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery. Freezing specimens for direct detection (PCR) is not optimal. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B |
| Turn Around Time: | PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival at HETL. Turnaround time for PCR negatives that are reflexed to viral culture is approximately 10 days. Samples may be sent to CDC for further testing. Submitters with high priority specimens should contact MeCDC at 1-800-821-5821 for expedited testing. |
| Unacceptable Conditions: | Specimens received without a requisition and clinical details, or with insufficient material to analyze (less than 0.5ml), collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested. |
| Results Include: | No Influenza RNA Found, Influenza A/H3, Influenza A/H1, Influenza 2009 A/H1, Influenza B RNA DETECTED or Equivocal, or INCONCLUSIVE or INFLUENZA A; UNABLE TO SUBTYPE. Note: Unable to Subtype specimens are sent to CDC Atlanta for confirmation |
| Results: | All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax. |
| Laboratory Testing Fee: | The testing fee for INFLUENZA PCR has been waived. Charge for viral culture is \$36.00 |
| Applicable CPT Codes: | PCR IS FEE WAIVED CPT CODES ARE N/A Viral culture CPT Code: 87250. |
| Additional Information: | Positive influenza A H1 and H3 samples are reflexed to antiviral resistance testing by Pyrosequencing. Results from this analysis are reported to MeCDC Infectious Disease Epidemiology For Influenza testing specific questions contact Maine HETL - Virology section at 207-287-1722 |