



MED HEALTH SERVICES

Specialists in

Outpatient Laboratory and Medical Imaging Services

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Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Collection Update:

1. Collect a nasopharyngeal swab from patient in question using the:
UTM-RT Swab. (Please call lab to request swabs)
 - a. Bend shaft to follow curve of nasopharynx.
 - b. Insert swab through nostril to posterior nasopharynx (same distance as from nostrils to external opening of ear).
 - c. Rotate swab a few times to obtain infected cells.
 - d. For an optimal sample, repeat procedure using other nostril.
 - e. Place swab in transport medium.
 - f. Bend or cut shaft to completely seal transport tube.
2. Refrigerate the specimen.
3. Indicate flu culture on the bottom of the requisition with suspicion of the Swine Influenza A (H1N1).
4. Contact Laboratory for courier service.
5. **Turn around for initial Influenza A result will be 24-48 hrs.**
6. **If result is positive and specimen needs sent to the state public health laboratory, confirmation result will take an additional 48-72 hrs.**

If a positive Influenza A culture is resulted:

Specimens positive for influenza A will be sent directly to public health laboratories for further characterization. Physicians on staff will be contacted prior to delivery to obtain vital information regarding the patient. Local health department will facilitate transport and timely diagnosis at a state public health laboratory. CDC requests that state public health laboratories promptly send all influenza A specimens that cannot be subtyped to the CDC, Influenza Division, Virus Surveillance and Diagnostics Branch Laboratory. A second specimen may need to be collected based on time interval.

Please contact Med Health Services Laboratory Outreach Manager for any additional questions:

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