

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LABORATORIES DEALING WITH 'SWINE FLU'

The Office of Laboratory Services has put forth the following recommendations for laboratories regarding the current outbreak of 'swine flu'. These recommendations are to be considered in conjunction with your agencies policies and procedures.

COLLECTION OF SPECIMENS:

- Collection of nasopharyngeal specimen is preferred. Swab must be polyester or Dacron only. **No cotton or calcium alginate swabs!**
- NP swabs should be placed in viral transport media (VTM) as soon as possible.
- Lids should be tightly closed. Sealing with Parafilm is recommended.
- Samples should be sent to OLS on cold packs, if sent within 72 hours of collection.
- Samples which cannot be shipped within 72 hours after collection must be frozen at -80°C and shipped to OLS with dry ice for overnight delivery.
- Clinical findings (fever \geq 100°F, cough, sore throat) must also be recorded on the form.

NOTE: Laboratories performing RT-PCR for Influenza detection may send extraction aliquots along with original samples to OLS. Extractions must have been performed using one of the following commercially available RNA extraction kits:

- QIAamp® Viral RNA Mini Kit
- RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen)
- Roche MagNA Pure Compact RNA Isolation Kit
- Roche MagNA Pure TNA Kit

APPROVED SPECIMEN SOURCES:

- Nasopharyngeal (preferred)
- Nasal
- Nasal aspirate
- Throat

APPROVED COLLECTION/TRANSPORT MEDIA:

- Viral Transport Media (such as Remel M4RT®, Catalog #R12505)
- Universal Transport Media (such as Copan UTM, Catalog #330C)

NOTE: OLS will not accept specimens collected in Stuarts or Amies (liquid or gel).

UNSATISFACTORY SPECIMENS:

OLS will not perform testing on specimens that meet any of the following criteria:

- Specimens received with a collection date of longer than one week prior.
- Specimens from unapproved sources, such as nasal washings.
- Specimens not shipped on cold packs.
- Specimens without proper information on laboratory submission form.

REFERRAL TESTING GUIDELINES:

Submitters should refer to the current case definition located on the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) website:

www.wvidep.org

Questions or concerns regarding laboratory testing can be directed to any of the following persons:

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