

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES**



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**INFLUENZA SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT INSTRUCTIONS**

**Important Information:**

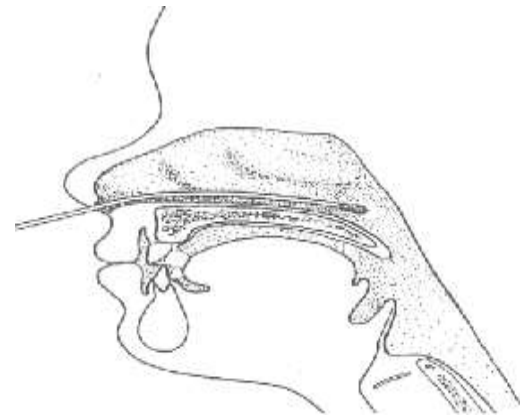
1. Upon kit arrival, place ice pack in the freezer
2. Viral transport medium and swabs may be stored at room temperature.

**Kit components for culture:**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 tube of viral transport media  | Instruction sheet                   |
| 1 sterile swab applicator nasopharyngeal swab (flocked with Nylon fiber) | PHL Influenza test requisition form |
| 1 small resealable bag   | Cylindrical aluminum inner liner    |
| 1 freezer pack   | Cardboard mailing container         |

**Procedure for collection:**

1. Verify that the viral transport media has not expired. Results obtained from specimens received in expired media may not accurately reflect patient condition.
2. Identify the patient. Best results will be obtained from patients in the first two days of illness. Label the viral transport media with patient name, specimen source, and the date of collection.
3. Fill out the PHL Influenza test requisition form completely and legibly. Forms can be found at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/lab/labrequisitions.htm>
4. *For collection of nasopharyngeal specimen:*  
With the patient's neck in an extended position, gently insert a sterile nasopharyngeal swab into the nostril. Pass the swab along the floor of the nose until it contacts the posterior nasopharyngeal wall and gently rotate for 5 seconds to absorb secretions. Remove the swab and place it in the viral transport media. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial and cap the tube. If a vortex is available, vortex the media with swab for 10 seconds.
5. To help prevent leaking, assure the cap is threaded properly, then place the tube of viral media into the resealable bag provided.
6. Specimens should be refrigerated (2-8°C) as soon as possible after collecting.
7. Keep specimen cold during transportation. Place the specimen in the aluminum inner liner with the freezer pack provided in the kit. Cap the inner liner. To comply with proper shipping and packaging, wrap the completed PHL test requisition form around the outside of the aluminum inner liner and place into the cardboard mailing container. Secure cap.
8. Mail or transport to the PHL promptly to reduce the growth of contaminating bacteria and fungi and for testing to occur within 72 hours of collection.



**For kit orders, please call the Public Health Laboratories at:  
603-271-4605 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4605**

**For technical questions, please call the Virology & Special Testing unit at 603-271-4661**