



INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SPECIMEN SUBMITTAL FORM

Laboratory Director Linda Ward - http://www.sbcounty.gov/pubhlth

150 East Holt Boulevard, Ontario, CA 91761 – phone (909)458-9430 Fax (909)986-3590- Mon – Fri 8 am to 5 pm

- Specimens will not be tested if this form is not complete
See specimen submittal instructions on back

Form with multiple sections: Patient information, Local Laboratory Results, Epidemiologic Information, and Clinical Information. Includes checkboxes for various symptoms and conditions.

Specimen Collection and Submittal Instructions

Specimens should be collected within the first 24-72 hours of onset of symptoms and no later than 5 days after onset of symptoms. Personnel collecting clinical specimens should wear an N95 respirator, goggles, disposable gown, and disposable gloves.

Respiratory Specimens:

- Each specimen should be labeled with: **date of collection, specimen type, and patient name.**
- Preferred specimen is a nasopharyngeal swab. Please use only sterile Dacron or Rayon swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts. DO NOT use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden sticks, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit some molecular assays.
- Oropharyngeal (throat) swabs are acceptable, but may not have as high yield. If oropharyngeal specimens are collected, they should be accompanied by a specimen from the nasopharynx.
- Place the swabs in a standard container with 2-3 ml of viral transport media.
- Nasopharyngeal wash or nasopharyngeal aspirate is also acceptable.
- If the patient is hospitalized with pneumonia, specimens from the lower respiratory tract (e.g., tracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage) should also be obtained.

Specimen Storage and Shipment:

Specimens will not be tested if the front of this form is not completed. The specimens should be kept refrigerated at 4°C and sent on cold packs if they can be received by the laboratory within five days of the date collected. If samples cannot be received by the laboratory within five days, they should be frozen at -70°C or below and shipped on dry ice. Specimens should be transported to the address shown on front of this form.

- **Specimens must be received at the laboratory during normal business hours unless special arrangements are made.**
- **Specimen submission does not guarantee testing. Testing priority will be based on patient health history and public health surveillance guidelines.**
- **Incomplete forms will be faxed to submitter for revision.**