

Swine Flu Testing Guideline Form

(Effective 5/1/09)

Due to the high demand for testing, the following guideline/form should be used when submitting specimens for swine flu until further notice. THESE ARE NOTICEABLY MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN PREVIOUS CRITERIA.

Submit this form along with a State Lab requisition form and a demographics/facesheet with each specimen. **Please check which criteria you are using for specimen submission*.**

Patient must meet case definition of influenza-like-illness (ILI) when referenced in 1 through 3 below.

Definition of ILI: Fever $\geq 37.8^{\circ}$ (100°F) **and** a cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

- 1. This specimen is from a patient who is part of an ILI outbreak or cluster.
- 2. This specimen is from a patient who meets the case definition for ILI **and** has traveled within 7 days to a community either within the United States or internationally where there are one or more confirmed swine influenza A (H1N1) cases.
- 3. This specimen is from a patient **admitted** to the hospital for ILI.

Specimens should be collected within 3 days of onset of illness, but no later than 5 days after onset.

If a patient meets criteria for any of the above 1,2, or 3, collect a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal specimen (**NOT** a nasal swab) with a viral swab and place in viral transport medium.

Contact Hernando County Health Department at pager 352-540-2044 for specimen pickup. Keep the specimen refrigerated until picked up.

****Specimens not properly submitted or that do not meet criteria will not be tested.***

Please direct any questions regarding use of this form to:
Barbara Benitez, RN, Hernando County Health Department Epidemiology program at 352-540-6897.

Collection of nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs

Use only sterile dacron or rayon swabs with plastic shafts. Do **NOT** use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden sticks, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit PCR testing.

- **Nasopharyngeal swabs-** Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate until resistance is met by virtue of contact with the nasopharynx. Leave in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions and slowly withdraw swab with a rotating motion. Swab both nostrils. (This is **not** a nasal swab)
- **Oropharyngeal swabs-** Swab both posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas, avoiding the tongue.

Place swabs immediately into sterile vials containing 2 ml of viral transport media. Break applicator sticks off near the tip to permit tightening the cap.

Infection Control Precautions

Personal protective equipment: Mask, disposable gloves, gown and goggles.

When completed, place all PPE in a biohazard bag for appropriate disposal

Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel.