Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 Phone: 573-751-6400 FAX: 573-751-6010
RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired and Voice dial: 711

Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG
Director

Michael L. Parson
Governor

MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SEASONAL INFLUENZA SPECIMENS

Upon receipt of the virus shipping containers, place refrigerant pack in freezer and keep frozen until specimens are packaged. Store the viral transport media in a refrigerator (2-8° C) until ready to use.

COLLECTION OF SPECIMEN

- Use only the supplied Dacron/flocked swab or equivalent. Do not use wood shafted or cotton swabs for specimen collection.
- Collect a Nasopharyngeal Swab, Nasal Swab or Throat Swab for Influenza testing.
- Commercially available viral (not bacterial) transport medium may also be used if the supplied viral transport is not available.
- Fill out a Test Request Form only available online at http://health.mo.gov/lab/

NOTE: After a swab is used, place it into the vial of transport medium and break off the swab tip low enough to allow the cap of the media tube to be tightly secured and not allow the media to leak out.

SPECIMENS NOT LABELED WITH THE PATIENT'S NAME WILL BE DISCARDED WITHOUT TESTING.

TEMPORAY STORAGE OF SPECIMENS

- Specimens should be shipped to the State Laboratory as soon as possible.
- Store the specimen at refrigerator temperature (2-8°C) pending shipment and ship on refrigerant packs.
- Specimens that are not received within 3 days of collection will not be tested unless stored at – 70°C and shipped on dry ice. Please avoid freeze/thaw cycles.

PACKING FOR SHIPMENT OF SPECIMENS

- Place refrigerant pack in Styrofoam box. Refrigerant pack must be frozen when box is packed for shipment to maintain specimens at proper temperature.
- Place specimen in safety container provided in Styrofoam container with refrigerant pillows.
- Close lid on Styrofoam box and place completed form on top of Styrofoam box.
- Place Styrofoam box inside cardboard box and tape cardboard box shut.

DO NOT USE ICE MADE WITH WATER WHEN SHIPPING SPECIMENS

SHIPMENT OF SPECIMENS

Determine method of shipment (mail or courier) that will get specimens to the Laboratory in the shortest length of time. If possible, select the method of shipment so that the specimens will not arrive in Jefferson City on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday. **DO NOT SHIP CLINICAL SPECIMENS BY UPS.**

Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
101 North Chestnut Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone# 573-751-3334, Fax # 573-526-2754

PLEASE USE THESE KITS FOR SEASONAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SPECIMENS ONLY.

Revised: June 4, 2018

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