



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



Paula F. Nickelson
Director

Michael L. Parson
Governor

Missouri State Public Health Laboratory Collection & Submission of Seasonal Respiratory Viruses

Updated 10/2024

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

- Use only a Dacron/flocked swab or equivalent. Do not use wood-shafted or cotton swabs.
- Collect a Nasopharyngeal Swab, Nasal Swab or Throat Swab for respiratory testing.
- You may use viral transport media (VTM) supplied by the MSPHL or other commercially available VTM.

TEMPORARY STORAGE OF SPECIMENS

Specimens should be shipped to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible.

- Store the specimen at refrigerator temperature (2-8°C) pending shipment.
- If specimens will not be received by the MSPHL within 72 hours of collection, they should be stored frozen ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$).

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION

- Complete a MSPHL Test Request Form (TRF) for each specimen using one of the following options:
 - Electronic submission using Lab Web Portal
 - Contact us for registration information
 - Manual (paper) Test Request Form
 - Available online at <https://health.mo.gov/lab/pdf/Virology.pdf>
- The TRF should include the following information at a MINIMUM:
 - In the "MOLECULAR (PCR)" section of the TRF, choose either Influenza or SARS-CoV-2 (specimens may be tested for both Influenza & SARS-CoV-2)
 - Select the specimen type in the "Specimen Information" section
 - Collection date
 - Patient first and last name
 - Patient DOB
 - Submitting facility name and contact information
 - Date of symptom onset
 - Although not required, any additional patient demographic information that is available is helpful
- Specimens should be shipped to the MSPHL within 72 hours of collection on freezer pillow(s). **Freezer pillows should be stored in freezer for at least 24 hours prior to shipping.** If shipping within 72 hours of collection is not possible, specimens should be frozen ($\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$) and shipped to the MSPHL on dry ice.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

The MSPHL will provide all shipping materials and cover shipping costs. Please contact the MSPHL to have collection kits sent to your facility.

Specimens may be sent to the MSPHL via the MSPHL Courier System. If utilizing the MSPHL Courier, samples should be sent out **no later than** the Friday courier pickup each week.

[GIS map of courier drop off locations Monday-Friday](#)

[List of courier drop-off locations by county Monday-Friday](#)

[Sunday Courier Locations](#)

If you do not have access to the MSPHL Courier, samples may be sent via FedEx. If utilizing FedEx for sample submission, ensure they are sent by priority shipping for receipt within 24 hours and that they will not arrive in Jefferson City on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday.

DO NOT SHIP CLINICAL SPECIMENS VIA UPS

Please send all specimens to this address:

Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
ATTN: Molecular Unit
101 North Chestnut Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone# 573-751-3334, Option 2

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?

Melissa Markham
Laboratory Supervisor, Molecular Unit
Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Melissa.Markham@health.mo.gov

Joshua Featherston
Unit Chief, Molecular Unit
Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Joshua.Featherston@health.mo.gov