

Wisconsin Guidance For Enhanced Surveillance and Testing for Swine Influenza A - 4/26/09

The Wisconsin Division of Public (DPH) and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) are requesting that health care providers collect specimens from any patient who meets the following criteria:

The patient presents with signs and symptoms characteristic of influenza (fever >100 degrees, cough or sore throat, myalgia), AND

- a. A person with an acute respiratory illness who has traveled to an area where there are confirmed cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) within 7 days of suspect case's illness onset.
- b. Has been in contact with ill persons from these areas in the 7 days prior to the onset of signs and symptoms

Specimen collection from patients who meet the above criteria should include:

One oropharyngeal (throat) swab AND one nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in the same vial of viral transport medium (VTM)

- Swabs used for specimen collection should have a dacron tip and aluminum or plastic shaft
- Do not use calcium alginate swabs, cotton swabs and wooden-shaft swabs, as they may interfere with testing. Specimens should be placed at 4°C (40° F) immediately after collection and maintained at refrigerator temperatures during transport to WSLH

PROMPT SHIPPING OF SPECIMENS IS NECESSARY!!

**PLEASE CONTACT THE WISCONSIN DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR APPROVAL
BEFORE SPECIMENS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

During office hours (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday) call Tom Haupt at 608-266-5326.
After hours call 608-258-0099 and ask for the Communicable Disease Epidemiologist "on-call"

SPECIMENS SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE WITHIN 24 HOURS. If submitters need assistance to arrange prompt delivery of specimens, they should call the WSLH emergency number at 608-263-3280. Please be aware that only specimens sent with this completed requisition form will be tested for avian influenza.

**SHIPMENT OF VIRAL SURVEILLANCE SPECIMENS VIA DUNHAM EXPRESS
TO THE WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

Specimen Packaging (WSLH Kit # 18 or equivalent):

- **Triple package as “Biological substance, Category B UN 3373”**
- Securely tape the cap of the specimen container, wrap specimen with absorbent material; place the specimen vial into a biohazard bag; place the completed requisition form into the outer pocket of the bag.
- Place the bagged specimen and form in the styrofoam mailer with a frozen kool-pak.
- Replace lid on the styrofoam box; close and securely tape the cardboard box shut.
- Attach the WSLH address label to the package:

**State Lab - Virology
465 Henry Mall
Madison, WI 53706**
- Attach the “*Biological substance, Category B / UN 3373*” label to the package.
- Attach your *return address* label; include the *name and telephone number* of the person who knows the content of the package (requirement) with the return address

Shipping Arrangements:

- The WSLH has a contract with Dunham Express for shipment of specimens to the WSLH, with charges billed to the WSLH. **You are not required to ship via Dunham Express unless you wish to have the transport charges billed to the WSLH.**
- Specimens will be picked up during regular working hours, but you must confirm the time with the Dunham Express office in your area.
- Specimens will be delivered to the WSLH the following day, Monday through Friday. **If you must ship on a Friday, contact the WSLH Emergency Answering Service at 608-263-3280 for instructions.** All package preparation should be completed before the courier arrives.
- **Contact the Dunham Express office in your area (see list below);**

Appleton area:	Call 920-722-6360
Eau Claire area:	Call 715-874-4595
LaCrosse area:	Call 608-779-4588
Madison area:	Call 608- 242-1000
Milwaukee area:	Call 414-435-0002
Niagara area:	Call 715-251-1909
Wausau area:	Call 715-355-0400
- **Give the office the following information:**

The State Lab-Virology account number: **7263**
Account name: **State Lab –Emergency Response**
Your name and phone number
Your pickup address, including other location information (e.g., room number)
The destination: **State Lab - Virology, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706**
Shipment description, if asked: **Viral specimens for overnight delivery**

If delivery to the WSLH within 24 hours cannot be accomplished using the standard Dunham Express (Monday through Friday) pick-up and delivery schedule, contact the WSLH Emergency Answering Service at 608-263-3280 for instructions.

