



UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HOSPITAL

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Swine Flu Specimen Collection and Ordering Information Updated 4-30-09

***Do not use Lawson 10903 Calcium Alginate swabs. This product is lethal to viruses for culture.**

***Clinics: Do not use Point of Care Testing rapid flu tests – not yet verified for swine flu.**

1. The rapid viral culture and PCR assays that we currently offer have the ability to detect the swine-origin influenza strain that is circulating in Mexico and has been detected in a few locations in the US.
2. Our laboratory tests cannot discriminate between the swine-origin flu and other influenza A strains. Hence, the laboratory will send all specimens positive for influenza A virus to the State Health Department for further characterization.
3. A rapid antigen test for Influenza A/B is available; however, a Rapid Respiratory Virus Culture **MUST** be ordered concurrently with the rapid antigen test.
 - If the rapid antigen test is *positive*, the Clinical Laboratory will send the specimen to CDPHE (State Health Department) for swine flu testing and the culture will be canceled.
 - If the rapid antigen test is *negative*, the culture will be done because of potential false negative results with the rapid antigen test. Results from the culture will be available in approximately 48 hours.

	Test	Test Code	Specimen requirements	Transport	Turnaround Time
Send to UCH Lab. Positive Flu A tests are sent by Lab to state to verify swine flu.	Influenza A/B Rapid Antigen AND Rapid Respiratory Viral Culture (includes Influenza A and B; Paraflu 1, 2, 3; Adenovirus; and RSV)	FLU A/B and C RRV (test mnemonics used to order)	Both tests can be run from a single specimen: Nasopharyngeal wire swab (Lawson 63252) in pink colored M4 transport media (Lawson 40194; keep media refrigerated).	Internal: Deliver to lab immediately. Offsite: Refrigerate or on ice. Transport same day. If delivery is not expected within 24 hours, freeze at -70 degrees C and ship on dry ice.	FLUAB testing is done every two hours. Specimens for culture set up at 1330 daily. Culture results reported in 48-72 hours.

- Distribution of nasopharyngeal wire swab (Lawson 63252) began 4-29-09; all clinical areas should have wire swabs by now.

Effective immediately and until further notice, all testing submitted to the Clinical Laboratory will follow the protocol listed above as the “standard of care”. Test orders that are incorrectly submitted will be corrected to follow the standard of care.

Results that are reported as positive for swine flu from the CDPHE/CDC will be handled as critical results. As such, it is imperative that ordering physician name and contact information (pager, phone) are included on all paper requisitions.

Please call Clinical Laboratory, Virology at 720-848-7085 if you have any questions or visit our website at <http://www.uch.edu/for-healthcare-professional/Clinical-Laboratory/index.aspx> for additional information.