Epidemic Influenza A and B by PCR

INFLUENZA A and B PCR TESTING (FLUPCR)

Detects influenza A with typing for seasonal influenza A H1N1 (human), H3N2 (human) and 2009 H1N1 Influenza A ("novel H1N1", “swine flu,” “S-OIV”) and influenza B

Specimen Requirements:
Please provide one of the following:

Preferred:
1. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport medium
   • Recommended swab: flocked, mini-tip swab broken into a screw top vial with UTM or other viral transport medium.
   • The recommended swab is provided in a NP swab collection kit available from hospital materials management.
   • Other swabs with plastic shafts may be substituted.

OR
2. Nasopharyngeal wash

Alternatives:
• Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL)
• Tracheal aspirate

For other specimen types, please contact the Laboratory Medicine Resident on call via the UWMC paging operator (598-6190)

Details on how to obtain a nasopharyngeal swab or wash are available on back of form or at:
http://tests.labmed.washington.edu/FLUPCR

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Collection of Nasopharyngeal (NP) Specimens

- See “Specimen collection” at http://tests.labmed.washington.edu/FLUPCR
- Use appropriate infection control precautions.
- Submit sample in a specimen bag with appropriate requisition.

Materials needed:

1 vial of viral or universal transport media
1 sterile mini-tipped flocked swab with flexible shaft

1. Label vial with patient identifiers and date of collection.
2. Gently insert swab into the nostril parallel to the palate until resistance is met by contact with the nasopharynx – do not angle swab up into nose.
3. Keep swab in position 5-10 seconds, while rotating the swab 2-3 times. Remove swab, insert into transport media vial.
4. Push the swab into the vial until the break point and snap off end of swab. The swab is very flexible and will easily fit. Apply the cap and tighten securely to prevent leakage.
5. Send sample (at room temperature or refrigerated) and requisition to the laboratory as soon as possible.

Alternate – Collection of Nasal Wash:

Materials needed:

Sterile cup
5 cc syringe
5 cc sterile saline (DO NOT use transport media)

1. Pour 5cc saline into sterile cup.
2. Draw up fluid into syringe.
3. With patient’s head slightly tilted back, have patient hold their breath and instill approximately half the fluid into one nostril.
4. Quickly have patient lean forward and expel fluid with gentle force into the sterile cup. Repeat with remaining fluid in the other nostril.
5. Recap cup tightly to prevent leakage.
7. Send requisition and nasal wash cup to lab as soon as possible.