

Submitting Respiratory Specimens to the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory

PATIENTS HOSPITALIZED FOR SUSPICION OF INFLUENZA

1 PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE SPECIMEN:

- Nasopharyngeal swab is preferred
- Other acceptable specimens include nasal swab, nasal wash/aspirate, throat swab, combined nasal swab and oropharyngeal swab, or viral culture isolates

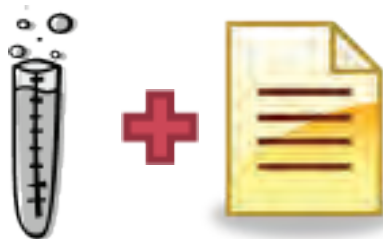


2 **STORE** at refrigeration temperature until transport
FREEZE specimen if it will not reach MDH within 7 days



4 SHIP SPECIMEN TO MDH-PHL:

- Ship specimen with a completed 1492 form, per your normal protocol



Address:

Minnesota Department of Health
Public Health Laboratory
Attn: Biological Accessioning
601 Robert St. N
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-2531

MDH is requesting specimens be sent to MDH-PHL **year-round EVEN IF:**

- Rapid influenza testing is positive, negative or not done
- You perform onsite influenza PCR testing or viral culture or use a reference laboratory to perform PCR or viral culture

3 COMPLETE LAB SUBMISSION FORM:

Project #1492 - Hospitalized Patients Only (Influenza Testing)



Find the form here:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/>

http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/clin/print_mdh_hosp.pdf

5 SPECIMEN TESTING:

MDH-PHL is testing specimens to determine which influenza strain types are circulating in the community and to determine other important characteristics about circulating strains (e.g. antiviral resistance, virulence)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MDH Influenza Surveillance: www.mdhflu.com/

QUESTIONS

Infectious Disease Laboratory: (651) 201-5200



Minnesota Department of Health
Infectious Disease Epidemiology,
Prevention, and Control Division
PO Box 64975, Saint Paul, MN 55164-0975