



Department of Health and Human Services
 Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Influenza Detection by Real Time RT PCR

Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Influenza associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza like illness, and Novel Influenza A are reportable conditions. If you have not already done so, please report suspected or confirmed cases to Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-5821 (24 hours/ 7 days/week).
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens from cases suspected or identified as being novel influenza or influenza positives that are not able to be subtyped • ME-CDC recommends each facility sends their first ten Influenza positives specimens for confirmation
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on requisition must include: test requested, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. • Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred: Nasopharyngeal swab, Throat swab, Nasal wash • Other Acceptable specimens: Lower respiratory specimens (bronchial wash), Nasal aspirate, Sputum • ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection kits may be provided through HETL, if part of surveillance project or in outbreak situation • Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media or other appropriate transport media • Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. Use cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results are generally available within 1 - 3 business days of specimen receipt • Samples may be sent to federal CDC or other reference laboratory for further testing
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. • Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers • Use wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza A Detected or Not Detected; Influenza B Detected or Not Detected; or Inconclusive • Positive Influenza will be subtyped (A/H3, A/pdmH19, B/Victoria, B/Yamagata) • Positive Influenza A samples may be reflexed to antiviral resistance testing • Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No fee for Influenza testing at this time
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87501
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteriology at 207-287-1704 • Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722 • Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769 • Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706