

2024 HPAI Testing instructions_v1

***All suspected patients under investigation (PUIs) must be evaluated and approved for testing by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) prior to submission to DCLS. Contact your local health department epidemiology representative for assistance.**

I. **TESTING SUMMARY:**

- **CDC Influenza H5 real time RT-PCR test** - Detection of Influenza A/H5 virus
- **CDC Flu/SC2 real time RT-PCR test** - Detection of Influenza A, Influenza B and SARS-CoV2 viruses

Note: Viral culture should not be initiated for any suspected or confirmed HPAI case.

II. **SPECIMEN COLLECTION/SUBMISSION:**

- Specimen collection kits are available, upon request.
- PUIs with **respiratory symptoms**, collect the following specimens:
 - **1 NP swab in VTM**
 - **1 combined NP/OP swab in VTM**
- PUIs with **conjunctivitis symptoms**, collect the following specimens:
 - **1 NP swab in VTM**
 - **1 conjunctival* swab in VTM**
- Label each VTM tube with the appropriate specimen source. **Dry swabs are NOT acceptable specimens.**
- Store and ship specimens refrigerated at 4°C on ice packs. Ship in insulated shipper as Category B (UN3373) or hard-walled, sealed DCLS cooler.
- Complete the DCLS Test Request Form to include:
 - a. **Completed patient and submitter information**
 - b. **Date and time of specimen collection**
 - c. **Specimen source types**
 - d. **Symptoms and onset date**
 - e. **“Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)” box checked on page 2**

Kit Component	Quantity
3-4 mL viral transport media (VTM) tubes – (subject to expiration)	2
Sterile flocked swab, plastic applicator - (subject to expiration)	2
Absorbent pad 3x3	2
8x10 Biohazard Bag	2
Bubble pouch	1
Zip lock bag with order documents	1
Testing instructions	1
DCLS Test Request Form	2

III. **TURNAROUND TIME/REPORTING:**

- Test results will be reported 4-6 hours after receipt of specimens at DCLS.
- Hard copy test results for NP and NP/OP swab specimens will be sent within 2 business days after testing is complete.

*** Testing of conjunctival swab specimens will be performed per CDC's recommendation; currently conjunctival swabs are not approved for CDC Influenza assays. A verbal reporting of conjunctival swab results will be provided only until the FDA approves this specimen type.**

IV. **CONTACT INFORMATION:** Contact DCLS to request kits, technical assistance, and testing coordination.

- **DCLS 24/7 Emergency Number:** 804-335-4617
- **Lead Scientist, Dr. LaToya Griffin-Thomas:** 804-385-8057
- **Molecular Detection/Characterization Group Manager, Sean Kelly:** 804-648-4480, x227
- **DCLS Kits Department:** DCLS_SSSKits@dgs.virginia.gov or 804-648-4480, x104

V. **REFERENCES:**

- DCLS Test Request Form: https://dgs.virginia.gov/globalassets/document-center/dcls-forms/dcls_test-request-form-16857-4.pdf