Delaware Public Health Laboratory

Herpes/Viral/Flu/Pertussis Collection Kit – Instructions
For all specimen types except blood and CSF

Use this kit for collection and transport of all virus isolation specimens, including influenza real-time PCR and herpes sexually transmitted infections. Collect specimens as soon as possible after onset of symptoms.

DO NOT USE sterile transport media for bacterial testing, such as Strep or Tuberculosis cultures as it contains antibiotics that may inhibit detection.

This kit can be used for Bordetella pertussis PCR testing EXCEPT Dump out the transport media before putting the swab in capped tube.

1. Kit contains: 1 requisition form
   1 screw-capped tube with 2ml of sterile transport media
   2 flexible flocked swabs

2. Write patient name and date collected on the tube.
3. Complete requisition form. Please indicate which test is requested.
4. For collection of nasopharyngeal specimen insert the swab into the posterior nasopharynx and rotate it gently. Contact time should be 10 seconds or at least until the patient coughs.
5. Place the swab into the screw-capped tube containing transport medium. Ensure that the caps are closed completely and the specimen is not leaking.
6. Place specimens along with requisition back into original biohazard specimen bag. Immediately place in a refrigerator (2-8°C). If influenza real-time PCR specimens will not be received within 72 hours they MAY be frozen.
7. Arrange for transportation of specimens to the Delaware Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible after collection. Courier specimen pick up locations can be found at the following web address: http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/lab/courierroutes.html
8. Under FDA guidelines for the influenza real-time PCR method, samples should be received in the Laboratory within 72 hours at 2-8°C, or frozen. Samples received after 72 hours that have not been frozen properly will still be tested, but considered for surveillance purposes only.

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