



Instructions for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Specimen Collection and Shipping

If there is suspicion for HPAI with relevant animal exposure call the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) at 502-564-3261 during regular business hours or 888-973-7678 after hours and on weekends to expedite testing of specimens.

If you have access to Outreach, please order the test code “FPCR”. Print a copy of the requisition and submit with the specimen. Each specimen will require a separate order in Outreach and individual requisition form.

If you do not have access to Outreach, please complete the Virology paper requisition (Lab Form 275) available on the [Department of Laboratory Services \(DLS\) website](#) and submit with the specimen. Please complete one form per specimen.

Currently, acceptable specimens for testing are respiratory specimens and conjunctival swabs. All swabs used for collection must be synthetic tip swabs with aluminum or plastic shafts. Calcium alginate swabs or swabs with cotton tips and wooden shafts are unacceptable. Ensure all specimens are labeled with two identifiers, as well as specimen type and date of collection, and that all collection materials are not expired.

- If patient has conjunctivitis symptoms only:
 - Collect conjunctival swab and nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in separate tubes of sterile viral transport media (VTM) or universal transport media (UTM)
 - For collection guidance see the [CDC's collection graphic](#)
 - Swabs may be referred out for confirmation testing
- If patient has both conjunctivitis and respiratory symptoms:
 - Collect total of three specimens 1) conjunctival swab, 2) NP swab, 3) combined nasal and oropharyngeal (OP) swab, each in separate tube of VTM or UTM
- Alternative respiratory specimens:
 - A minimum of one respiratory specimen is required per patient
 - A single nasal swab, nasal wash/aspirate or single OP swab may be collected if cannot collect an NP swab
 - For patients with severe lower respiratory tract illness, a lower respiratory tract specimen (e.g. endotracheal aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage fluid) should be collected

Store all specimens at 2-8°C after collection and ship overnight to DLS on ice pack to the following address: Kentucky Division of Laboratory Services, Attn: Virology, 100 Sower Blvd, Suite 204, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Specimens must reach DLS to be tested within 72 hours of collection when stored at 2-8°C. See [Collection and Packaging Guidance](#) on the DLS website for “Multishipper with Cold Pack Virus-Swab” for detailed instructions regarding swab collection and illustrated steps of packaging. The requisition form for ordering additional collection kits and packaging materials is also available on the DLS website.

Our Mission: To improve the health and safety of people in Kentucky through **Prevention, Promotion, and Protection**

Our Vision: Healthier People, Healthier Communities.

Our REACH Values: Responsiveness Equity Accountability Collaboration Honesty

