

Delaware Public Health Laboratory



Virus Isolation Collection Kit – Instructions *For all specimen types except blood and CSF*

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

1. Kit contains:
 - 1 requisition form
 - 1 screw-capped tube with 2ml of sterile transport media
 - 2 flexible flocked swabs
2. Fill in **patient name** and **date collected** on the tube.
3. Complete requisition form. Please indicate which tests are of interest.
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 collected specimens along with requisition slip 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 at 4°C, or frozen, 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.
9. Do not use virus isolation collection kits for bacterial testing, such as Bordetella species real-time PCR, or Mycobacterium tuberculosis PCR as it contains antibiotics that may inhibit the detection of bacteria.