QUICK SHEET
Laboratory Officer
for Influenza Surveillance Program Sentinel Sites

- In CHCS, order the Epidemiology Lab’s viral respiratory panel. The panel is named RESPIRATORY CULTURE PNL (EPI) or similar name designated by your installation. To request collection kits, use the current version of the “Supply Order Form” available (under Shipping/Training) at:
  https://gumbo2.wpafb.af.mil/epi-consult/influenza/lab

- Specimens must be individually placed in biohazard bags

- USAFSAM requests 2 mL of original, untested nasal wash (NW) specimen in VTM (viral transport medium)

- It is best to freeze the specimen at –70 °C and ship on dry ice
  *DO NOT freeze specimens in laboratory freezer at –20 °C*

- If freezing at –70 °C is not an option, then NW specimens must be held at 2-8 °C after collection and shipped, on frozen gel packs, to the USAFSAM lab within 48 hours of specimen collection
  *The specimen can be refrigerated up to 48 h of specimen collection ONLY including shipping time to USAFSAM
  If delays are anticipated, (longer than 48 h of specimen collection to reach the lab), then specimen must be frozen at –70 °C and shipped on dry ice*

- Submit 6-10 specimens meeting the ILI case definition each week from your MTF
  *ILI Case Definition: Fever ≥ 100.5 °F (38 °C) oral or equivalent AND cough or sore throat <72 hours duration*

- Specimens can be received M-F with limited hours on Saturday
  *Please make shipping arrangements to ensure delivery during regular hours*

- If specimens must be shipped for Saturday delivery, please call USAFSAM lab at 937-938-4140 (DSN: 798-4140) to make arrangements
  *Please check both “Priority Overnight” and “Saturday Delivery” on the FedEx shipping label, if not it may be delayed and delivered the following Monday*

- Verify completed questionnaires are shipped along with the specimens

- Ship specimens to the USAFSAM laboratory:
  USAFSAM/PHE
  Epidemiology Laboratory Service
  2510 Fifth Street, Bldg 20840, Area B
  WPAFB, OH 45433-7951

- See complete guide by accessing the lab website at:
  https://gumbo2.wpafb.af.mil/epi-consult/influenza/lab

We are happy to provide support and assistance.
Contact us at: (937)938-3196; DSN 798-3196
E-mail: USAFSAM.PHRFlu@us.af.mil
Website: https://gumbo2.wpafb.af.mil/epi-consult/influenza

Distribution Statement A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.
Decision Tree for Surveillance Program Influenza Testing

**Fever ≥ 100.5°F (38°C)**
**PLUS**
**Cough OR Sore Throat**
**AND**
**Symptom onset < 72 hrs duration**

**Yes**
1. Collect Nasal Wash Sample using sterile cup and red viral mediatape
2. Complete the Influenza Surveillance Questionnaire
3. Submit the questionnaire and sample in VTM to lab for shipping to USAFSAM

**No**
If patient does NOT have fever but has respiratory symptoms that are suspicious for influenza you may submit for respiratory testing if no more than 10 specimens have been submitted for your site in the current week.

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**Specimens and questionnaires should be shipped to:**

USAFSAM/PHE  
2510 Fifth Street, Bldg 20840  
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-7951  

**FedEx number: 425177729**  
(for respiratory viral panel testing ONLY)

**For questions or problems contact us at:**  
Tel: 937-938-3196  
Email: USAFSAM.PHRFlu@us.af.mil  
https://gumbo2.area52.afnoapps.usaf.mil/epi-consult/influenza

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