Appendix A: Submitting Specimens to the Oklahoma Public Health Laboratory for Subtyping

- If your facility is unable to subtype influenza A positive specimens from hospitalized patients, or you obtain an "Unsubtypable" result from your laboratory influenza subtyping, submit those specimens to the Oklahoma Public Health Laboratory.
- All specimens **must** be accompanied with **OSDH 419 PHL Requisition.**
    - Fill out all sections.
- On the Test Requisition, select "Other" Test and write in: "Influenza Subtyping".
- **Specimen Collection Criteria Requirements:**
    - Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport media.
        - **Note**: NP swabs are the preferred specimen type. Oropharyngeal swabs and conjunctival swabs are also acceptable swab types but cannot be tested by the OK PHL and must be referred to the CDC for testing, which may delay receiving test results.
    - Specimen collected with synthetic fiber swabs (e.g., nylon, rayon, or Dacron) with plastic or aluminum shafts
    - Tube containing viral transport medium (Remel M4RT) or another appropriate commercial media (UTM, M4, and M4RT).
    - An OSDH 419 PHL Requisition Form must accompany all specimens submitted for influenza A subtyping. All patient identifiers on OSDH 419 PHL Requisition must match exactly those provided on the specimen container. **Any discordance will result in the specimen being rejected for diagnostic testing**.
- **Shipping:**
    1. Store and ship specimens refrigerated (2-8°C) for delivery within 72 hours of collection. If delivery will be delayed for more than 72 hours, specimens should be frozen at -70°C or colder and shipped with dry ice. Please call courier service at 636-561-2518 or the OSDH PHL at 405-564-7750 in advance when requesting frozen transport. Courier service requires 24 hours' notice for frozen transport with dry ice.
    2. Specimens can be transported directly to the OSDH PHL via PHL-contracted courier, private courier, or commercial courier Monday through Friday.
    3. Testing of specimens will begin the next business day following specimen pick-up. Specimens arriving to the PHL on Fridays after morning testing run, will be stored frozen for testing on the next business day. Similar provisions will be made for holiday closings of the OSDH PHL.

- **Causes for Specimen Rejection:**
    - Incorrect specimen type
    - Incorrect collection device (e.g., cotton, wooden, or calcium alginate swab)
    - Incorrect transport media (e.g., saline)
    - Received > 72 hours from time of collection **and** not frozen at -70°C or colder
    - Swab without transport medium
    - Specimens missing swabs
    - Specimens that have leaked due to the cap not properly secured
    - Specimens at ambient temperature
    - Other criteria as outlined in Specimen Rejection section of the OSDH PHL Test Directory

Appendix A: Submitting Specimens to the Oklahoma Public Health Laboratory for Subtyping

- More information about influenza testing, specimen collection, submission, and reporting can be found in the OSDH PHL Test Directory under “Influenza Virus A and B – PCR".