

Respiratory Specimen Submission Instructions



Collect Sample: Collect specimens using synthetic-tipped (nylon, rayon, Dacron) swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts, and place them in a tube containing the appropriate viral transport medium. Refer to the OSDH PHL Test Directory for collection instructions.

SURVEILLANCE TEST	APPROVED TRANSPORT MEDIA
Influenza Surveillance Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab	VTM, UTM, M4, and M4RT
SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance NP, OP and mid-turbinate (nasal) swab	VTM, M4RT, UTM, AMIES, PBS

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING BELOW

- A** After collection, but prior to testing, remove 2mL of sample and place into a sterile container for submission OR
- B** Collect two samples: One for your facility's testing and one for submission to the Public Health Laboratory OR
- C** Submit the remaining original specimen, ONLY if unaltered (no added reagents).

Complete Shipping Manifest

The correct respiratory surveillance shipping manifest must be completed for all submissions. The surveillance form should be submitted and NOT the PHL requisition.

Shipping

Procure dry ice to ship frozen batched specimens held >72 hours post collection. For specimen shipments received at the PHL within 72 hours, cold packs are acceptable.

SARS-CoV-2

- 10% of positive SARS-CoV-2 samples per week for genomic surveillance

ORDER SUPPLIES

Specimen collection and shipping supplies include a shipping manifest and specimen collection kits.

Supplies for collecting and shipping surveillance specimens are provided at NO COST and can be requested at **405-444-6494** or **PHLSupplyOrders@health.ok.gov**

SPECIMEN PACKAGING

- Ensure the specimen cap is secure, and the specimen is not leaking.
- Secure with Parafilm and wrap specimen with absorbent material to prevent leakage during transport.
- Place the specimen vial into a biohazard bag.
- Place the completed manifest form into the outer sleeve of the bag.
 - Include the name and telephone number of the person who knows the content of the package for all submissions.

COURIER SERVICE REQUEST

- Courier service requires 24 hours' notice for frozen transport with dry ice.
- Please complete all package preparation before courier arrival.
- Specimens will be picked up during regular working hours Monday-Thursday

Regarding Specimen(s) Submission contact the PHL to arrange for a pick-up at 405-564-7750 or PublicHealthLab@health.ok.gov

Influenza

Off Season (May to July)

- 2-3 positive Influenza A specimens/week
- 2-3 positive Influenza B specimens/week

Respiratory Season (August to April*)

- 5+ positive Influenza A specimens/week
- 5+ positive Influenza B specimens/week
- All Influenza A positive specimens with:
 - International travel history
 - Animal exposure

Note: All Influenza A Unsubtypable positive (Ct < 35) submissions require the completed OSDH Form 419. For Test Request, select Other and write in "Influenza A Unsubtypable."

*Based on MMWR Week Data from CDC per Hamid S, Winn A, Parikh R, et al. Seasonality of Respiratory Syncytial Virus — United States, 2017–2023. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:355–361.

Hospitals and laboratories are required to submit 10% of their weekly positive COVID-19 specimens, per Oklahoma Administrative Code 310:515. Submitters are encouraged to send positive influenza specimens to support National Surveillance Guidelines.