

NOTICE: CHANGES IN SPECIMEN COLLECTION KITS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The specimen collection kit, VIRAL INFECTIONS & PCR ON CSF (Unit 45), and collection instructions, INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FROM VIRUS ISOLATION AND ENTEROVIRUS BY PCR FROM CSF (MDCH form DCH-0772), have changed.

The collection kit now includes two different types of swabs, a flexible metal-shafted swab for nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection and a stiff, plastic-shafted swab for throat and lesion fluid specimen collection.

Form DCH-0772 has changed to reflect the need for different swabs under different circumstances. A more complete set of collection instructions for NP swabs has been included as well as a diagram for NP swab collection. Finally, a recommendation on expected viral recovery has been included for each specimen type.

These changes were made as a part of routine quality assurance activities in an attempt to improve viral recovery. NP swabs are the recommended specimen for culture of the influenza virus.