

Quick Guide
For Making
Influenza Specimen Collection Kits

The MDCH Bureau of Laboratories provides specimen collection kits for submission of samples to the state laboratory for testing. These kits contain all necessary collection and packaging materials for shipping specimens by U.S. Mail, including a prepaid-postage label. In anticipation of the fall novel influenza A (H1N1) outbreak, we have increased our stock of supplies used to create the specimen collection kits. However, if the demand exceeds our expectations or if suppliers are unable to meet the demand for kit components, there may not be influenza specimen collection kits available, or we may not be able to get them to you as quickly as you need them.

As a part of your Pandemic Preparedness Activities, you may want to put aside a supply of kit components so that you may create your own Influenza Specimen Collection kits, if necessary.

The following is a list of items that are needed to make one Influenza Specimen Collection kit.

- 1 – Cardboard box, approximate size: 9 x 8 x 5"
- 1 – Styrofoam insert for the box (so it will remain cold during shipping)
- 1 - Transport Medium, Viral & Chlamydia (2 or 3 ml)
- 1 - Swab, Nasopharyngeal (NP), Dacron or nylon minitip with plastic or wire shaft, sterile in peel pouch. DO NOT substitute calcium alginate or wooden shaft swabs.
- 1 - Ice, Blue (cold pack) – frozen
- 1 – Absorbent strip (paper toweling or other absorbent material)
- 2 - Bag, Plastic - 4 x 8", Zipper closure
- 1 - Label, Shipping – UN 3373 Biological Substance – see address below
- 1 – Test Requisition, DCH-0583

Test request forms are available on-line at www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0583TEST_REQUEST_7587_7.pdf

Shipping label for Biological Substance, Category B is available on-line at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/DCH-0800_shipping_label2_304273_7.pdf

Request form for ordering kits (or individual components) is available on-line at www.michigan.gov/documents/dch-0568_7396_7.pdf

Shipping address for MDCH BOL:

Michigan Department of Community Health
Bureau of Laboratories
3350 North Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Building 44 Room 155
P.O. Box 30035
Lansing, Michigan 48909