

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE

Sample Collection for Respiratory Virus PCR

May 2017

INTRODUCTION

All Respiratory Virus testing from the MidCentral, Whanganui and Tairāwhiti DHB's are referred to Canterbury Health Laboratories (CHL).

The Fast Track assay will detect 13 virus types or strains including: influenza type A & B viruses, respiratory syncytial virus (type a & b), human metapneumovirus, parainfluenza virus types 1, 2, 3 & 4 adenovirus, rhinovirus, enterovirus, parechovirus and bocavirus. The assay will also detect *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*

Please refer to Canterbury Health Laboratories website if further details are required:

<http://www.labnet.health.nz/testmanager/index.php>

**Contact the Medlab Central Clinical Microbiologist if additional virus testing is required
e.g. MERS Coronavirus, Avian Influenza**

0800 800 030 – (06) 952 3180

RT-PCR - SAMPLE REQUIRED

Samples should be taken as early as possible within the first 3-5 days after onset of symptoms

1. Nasopharyngeal swab

Use **CHL Respiratory Virus or Measles PCR Collection Pack** (below)

Adult orange top swab – preferable due to higher yield

Paediatric white top swab – can also be used in adults if required

2. Throat swab is the preferred sample for Enterovirus and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* PCR

Use orange top **CHL Respiratory Virus or Measles PCR Collection Pack** (below)



NB. Collection Rooms *DO NOT* take nasopharyngeal or pernasal swabs

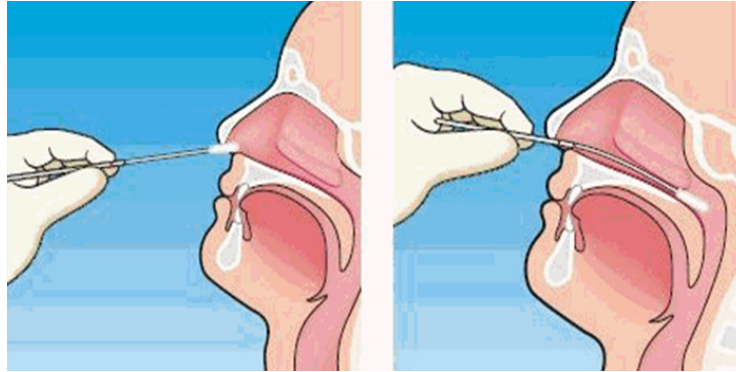
3. Nasal wash

4. Sputum

5. Lower respiratory tract specimens (BAL, BW)

SAMPLE COLLECTION**Nasopharyngeal swab**

1. Insert swab into one nostril
2. Introduce the swab **gently** and push it forwards with gentle downwards pressure on the lower nasal floor, to the posterior wall of the nasopharynx. Rotate the swab twice before gently removing. **Sample via one nostril only**



3. Place the swab into the red top vial fluid and carefully break off the shaft at the break point
4. Close the lid tightly
5. Label sample vial with patient first and last names, NHI number, date of birth and date of collection
6. Place the sample vial in a separate plastic specimen bag, then double-bag for protection against spillage
7. Deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible or store at 4°C if delay is expected

REQUEST FORM

1. Record contact details for requester as the Laboratory staff need to know who to notify for critical results
2. Request form should include 'Suspected case (disease e.g. Avian Flu)' and clinical symptoms
3. Ensure the request form is placed in the OUTSIDE pocket of the biohazard sample bag

SAFETY

1. Keep yourself safe; wear appropriate personal protective equipment following Ministry of Health guidelines
2. Ensure request form is completed with adequate clinical details. If measles or influenza is suspected make sure that this is clear and obvious
3. Sample containers should be double-bagged before storage and transportation
4. After swab collection, make sure the request form is in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag