

SPECIMENS TO BE COLLECTED AND SENT TO KS DHEL  
FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA TESTING IN HUMAN SPECIMENS

**KDHE EPIDEMIOLOGY MUST BE CONTACTED BY SUBMITTING  
FACILITY PRIOR TO SHIPPING (877-427-7317)**

- Follow blood borne pathogen guidelines together with airborne precautions (e.g., N-95 respirator) when collecting these specimens.
- **Specimens from lower respiratory tract are preferred, including sputum, bronchial lavage or aspirate, or nasopharyngeal aspirate.** *Throat and nasopharyngeal swabs are NOT preferred for suspected Avian Influenza.* All specimens should be collected within 3 days of symptom onset. **NO ANIMAL SPECIMENS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- Specimens should be collected on sterile Dacron or cotton-tipped swabs with an aluminum or plastic shaft. Swab specimens should be submitted in viral transport medium. Swabs with calcium alginate tips or wooden shafts are unacceptable.
- Store specimens at 2°C to 8°C and ship with cold packs to keep sample cold. Transport specimens as soon as possible to the State Laboratory.
- Include pertinent travel and clinical history on the requisition.
- Clinical specimens must be packed in an insulated shipper rated for Diagnostic Specimens or Infectious Substance. See [http://www.kdheks.gov/labs/downloads/Virus\\_pictorial\\_guide.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/labs/downloads/Virus_pictorial_guide.pdf) for details. Seal the completed requisition form (patient and test request information) in a plastic zip bag and place on top of the inner insulated box before closing the outer container.
- If the sample is being shipped as and Infectious Substance, list the suspected agent (“possible Avian Influenza”) on the outside of the secondary container.
- Ship specimens to:

Kansas Dept of Health & Environment  
Division of Health & Environmental Laboratories  
ATTN: Virology Laboratory  
Forbes Field Bldg 740  
Topeka, KS 66620-0001

- Contact information for additional questions:

Epidemiology hotline:      1-877-427-7317 option 5 during normal business hours, hold  
for operator after business hours.

DHEL:                              Virology Lab 785-296-1644, [kmcphail@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kmcphail@kdhe.state.ks.us)  
Molecular Lab 785-291-3387, [bhart@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:bhart@kdhe.state.ks.us)  
Kay Herman 785-296-1646, [kherman@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kherman@kdhe.state.ks.us)