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 an 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, kmcpail@kdhe.state.ks.us  
  Molecular Lab 785-291-3387, bhart@kdhe.state.ks.us  
  Kay Herman 785-296-1646, kherman@kdhe.state.ks.us