

Microbiology

Collection of specimens for **Rapid Influenza A/B Antigen and Culture**

Gloves

Rapid Influenza kit

Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab

ACM specimen bag

Do not use media beyond the expiration date.

- Wear gloves
- Label specimen with patient name and specimen source
- Complete ACM test requisition
- Use NP swab provided with this kit to collect specimen. Other swabs may be inhibitory to viral isolation.
- Enclose in an ACM specimen bag

Collect all specimens for viral cultures in viral transport media, This media allows a virus to remain viable until cell culture can be performed in the laboratory.

The preferred specimens for Rapid Influenza Antigen testing are a nasopharyngeal wash or aspirate, nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or combined nasopharyngeal throat (NPT) swab. NP swabs are collected by inserting the swab into one nostril and pressing the swab tip on the mucosal surface of the mid-inferior portion of the inferior turbinate. Rub the swab several times across the mucosal surface to loosen and collect cellular material. Remove the swab and break off into the universal transport medium provided.

To return the specimen to the laboratory, place the transport medium in the special services bag enclosed in the kit along with the completed test requisition. Any further questions can be answered by calling the laboratory at 247-3500.

Please note: The sensitivity of the Influenza A/B Antigen test can vary from 40-80%, depending on the strain of Influenza that is circulating in the community. All negative Influenza A/B antigen specimens will be followed by culture.

Rapid Influenza kit

