



Department of
Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Avian Influenza A H5 by Real Time RT PCR *Laboratory Submission Information Sheet*

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes: Influenza associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza-like illness, influenza hospitalization, and novel Influenza A are reportable conditions, including suspected Influenza A/H5. If you have not already done so, please report suspected or confirmed cases to Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24 hours/7 days/week).
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical laboratories and/or healthcare providers are required to submit specimens from cases suspected or identified as being Influenza A/H5, including highly pathogenic avian influenza, or influenza A positives that are unsubtypable.
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: test requested, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For individuals with respiratory symptoms: Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport media tube as well as a Combined Nasal swab and Throat swab (2 swabs in one viral transport tube)• For individuals with conjunctivitis (with or w/o respiratory symptoms): Conjunctival swab and Nasopharyngeal swab in separate viral transport media tubes.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collection kits may be provided through HETL, if part of an outbreak situation• Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media or other appropriate transport media• Store specimens at 2 to 8 °C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. Ship specimens on frozen cold packs.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Results are generally available within 1 - 3 business days of specimen receipt• Samples may be sent to federal CDC or other reference laboratory for further testing
Rejection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a requisition form, clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. Specimens in poorly labeled, unlabeled, or leaking containers.• Specimens transported at incorrect temperature.• Calcium alginate swabs, or swabs with wooden shafts.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influenza A Detected, Not Detected, or Inconclusive• Positive Influenza will be subtyped (A/H3, A/H1pdm09, presumptive A/H5)• Positive Influenza A samples may be forwarded to federal CDC for further testing• Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No fee for Influenza A/H5, including highly pathogenic avian influenza testing at this time
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87501
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704• Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706