

State Hygienic Laboratory and Iowa Department of Public Health Influenza Surveillance Testing Guidance 2023/2024

Contact IDPH or SHL for guidance in the event of an ILI outbreak.

- All Labs- submit ONE positive flu specimens per week to SHL for PCR and subtyping
- Also submit up to TEN positive COVID per week for sequencing (sequencing results not reported back to submitting facility)

SHL influenza/ SARS-CoV-2 surveillance testing and sequencing serves the following purposes:

- Demonstrates predictive value and accuracy of other tests
- Novel virus detection and monitor for variants of interest or concern
- Contribute samples to CDC and WHO- antiviral resistance, vaccine strain selection and match to current vaccine
- Surveillance testing is provided at no cost and is partially supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Thank you for your support of this program!**

IDPH 800-362-2736 <http://idph.iowa.gov/influenza> SHL 319-335-4500 <http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/dcd/influenza/index.xml>

For Flu Surveillance this year SHL will use:

CDC Flu/SC2 combination aka multiplex PCR test

Specimens submitted for Influenza PCR testing will also receive a COVID PCR result

If positive for Flu A they will be reflexed to Flu A subtyping.

If positive for Flu B they will be reflexed to Flu B subtyping.

Subtyping results will be reported to Iowa HHS and CDC for symptomatic patients only. The submitting facility will receive the subtyping results.

Iowa Influenza Surveillance Webinar for 2023-2024 Season

[Slides from webinar](#)

[Recording of webinar](#)

Laboratory Contact Information

Molecular section phone: 319-335-4376

SHL general phone: 319-335-4500

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THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!!!

Ordering collection kits

- www.shl.uiowa.edu
- Click the blue button “Order A Test”
- Click “Order Clinical Kits”
- Fill out your contact info and select your facility from scroll down
- Fill out your shipping info
- In the drop down called “Type of kit” select “ Virus Isolation and Detection Kit”
- Enter “Qty. of Kits”
- If you only need certain components, you can type that in the “Comments” section.
- Kit contains M4-RT viral transport medium and swabs, absorbant and biohazard bag

Order Influenza testing using your State Hygienic Lab OpenELIS Web Portal account at: <https://www.shl.uiowa.edu/openelisweb/OpenELIS.html> . Click on the "COVID-19/Flu Electronic Test Request Form" button and select the "Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex" test.

COVID-19/Flu Electronic Test Request Form ✕

(* means required field) ? Help

REPORTING ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization: *

ORDERING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER INFORMATION

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| Last Name: * | <input type="text" value="WELBY"/> | First Name: * | <input type="text" value="MARCUS"/> |
| NPI: | <input type="text" value="1234567890"/> | Phone Number: | <input type="text" value="319/555-1212"/> |

SAMPLE INFORMATION

Collected Date: * ?

TEST(S) BEING REQUESTED

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|-----|---|
| 1. | Available Tests: * | <input type="text" value="Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex"/> | + | ? |
| | Sample Type: * | <input type="text" value="Nasopharyngeal swab"/> | | |
| 2. | Available Tests: | <input type="text" value="Select a test..."/> | + - | ? |
| | Sample Type: | <input type="text" value="Select a sample type..."/> | | |

Specimen Collection

- Please do not send specimens used for other testing because they may contain a lysis buffer that could react negatively with ours
- Preferred Specimen Types: Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab, Combined Nasopharyngeal/Throat swab
- **Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab:** Insert swab through the nostril into the nasopharynx until tip reaches the posterior nasopharynx (a distance equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient). Leave the swab in place for 10-30 seconds. Slowly remove with a rotating motion. Place swab in ~~MRT~~ transport medium.
- **Combination Swabs:** Nasal- Place Dacron tipped or flocked swab in each nostril and allow to remain in place for several seconds. Place the swabs in tube containing ~~MRT~~ transport medium. Throat- Rub the tonsils and posterior pharynx with Dacron tipped or flocked swab. Place the swabs in tube containing ~~MRT~~ transport medium.

Specimen Collection Cont.

- Specimens for testing should be collected within three days of onset of symptoms
- PCR is a very sensitive test, and precautions should be taken to not cross-contaminate specimens
- wear gloves and change before and after collecting specimen
- Avoid contact with environmental surfaces
- Fold in half printed eForm and place in the side pocket of biohazard bag (not inside biohazard with specimen)
- Make sure the specimen tube contains 2 identifiers, name and DOB is good
- Send via courier (most already have in place with COVID testing) or can mail in a styro container with ice pack.

Iowa Respiratory Survey-Submitting Your Labs Test Results

- Iowa Respiratory Virus Test Results - Clinical Laboratories
- Contact Kris Eveland at (319) 335-4279 or Kristofer-eveland@uiowa.edu if you are interested
- SHL will send you a link to the public survey
 - Each week, we'll send you the combined results from the previous week
- Benefit
 - Situational awareness - what's circulating in your local area
 - Data is used by Iowa HHS for the weekly respiratory virus report.
 - Positive predictive value of rapid influenza tests relies on prevalence in your local community
- We need COVID-19 data too now that negatives are not reportable
- We need more labs around the state for better geographic representation