

## Instructions for Reporting, Collecting and Shipping Specimens for Enterovirus D68 Viruses

This document contains detailed information on reporting, collecting, shipping, and testing of clinical specimens.

The kit should contain:

- Insulated shipping container
- Container(s) of refrigerant (e.g., Gel-Pak)
- Labeled screw-cap tube of viral transport medium
- (1) Micro-Tipped flocced nasopharyngeal swab
- (1) Traditional-Tipped flocced nasal swab
- Sterile conical tube (50 ml)
- (2) Metal inner container
- VDHL Clinical Test Request form (Micro 220)

**Pre-authorization and Epidemiology consultation must be obtained before specimens will be accepted at the VDH Laboratory for referral to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).**

**Prior to calling Epidemiology, collect the following information: Name, date of birth, signs and symptoms, and current patient status.**

**For authorization or questions/concerns relating to EVD68, please contact the Epidemiology Division at: 802-863-7240 or 1-800-640-4374 (VT only). Epidemiologists can be reached at these numbers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

### Collection of Specimens

1. **A surgical or procedure mask should be worn when collecting specimens for Enterovirus D68 testing.**
2. Specimens should be collected within the first 7 days of illness onset.
3. Print patient name and date of collection on labeled plastic tube containing the viral transport medium.

4. **Preferred\_Specimens: Nasopharyngeal swab or Nasal swab or any respiratory wash.**

#### 5. **Collection Instructions for Nasopharyngeal and Nasal Swab Specimens**

- **Nasopharyngeal swab:** using sterile technique, insert the dry nasopharyngeal swab into one nostril to the posterior pharyngeal area, hold the swab in place for 3-5 seconds to absorb secretions, rotate gently and then withdraw the swab.
- **Nasal swab:** using sterile technique, insert a dry swab approximately 2 cm into the naris. Rotate the swab against the anterior nasal mucosa for 3 seconds. Using the same swab, repeat for the other naris.
- **Swab specimens should be collected using swabs with a Dacron<sup>®</sup> tip and an aluminum or plastic shaft. Swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips and wooden shafts are unacceptable.**

- Place the swab(s) into the tube of viral transport medium. Break off the top portion of the swabs at the score line such that the cap can be placed on.
- Screw cap on the viral transport tube tightly.
- Place labeled viral transport tube containing the swab into a metal container provided. Screw cap on tightly.

## 6. Collection Instructions for Respiratory wash

- Respiratory wash should be collected in a 50ml sterile conical tube.
  - Place labeled sterile conical tube containing the respiratory wash into a metal container provided. Screw cap on tightly.
  - **Respiratory wash can be shipped as is without any Viral Transport Media.**
7. Fill out the requisition form (Micro 220) completely. **All information is required to ensure accurate and efficient processing of the specimen and reporting of test results.**
  8. Place the completed requisition form in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag. Place the metal container containing the specimen into the Ziploc portion of the biohazard bag. Place the biohazard bag containing the specimen and form into the large Ziploc bag.
  9. **Refrigerate specimen immediately. Do not freeze.**

## Shipment

Please use your regular courier for transport of the specimen(s) to the VDH Laboratory. Specimens must be shipped cold, in an insulated container, to arrive at the laboratory within 2 days of collection.

Protocols for standard interstate shipment of etiologic agents should be followed. These standards are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/shipregs.htm> . All shipments must comply with current DOT/IATA shipping regulations.

If you have any comments or questions regarding these instructions, please call one of the telephone numbers listed on the front of this form.