



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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Test Order

Influenza A(H5) Real-time PCR

Synonym(s)	Influenza A(H5) PCR
Methodology	Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upper respiratory specimens: For individuals that meet clinical and epidemiologic criteria for influenza A(H5) with respiratory illness, 2 specimens should be collected:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. One nasopharyngeal swab2. A combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab (2 swabs combined into one viral transport media vial).- Conjunctiva: For individuals that meet the clinical and epidemiological criteria for influenza A(H5) with conjunctivitis (with or without respiratory symptoms), 2 specimens should be collected:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conjunctival swab. Instructions for conjunctival Sample collection can be found under the Additional Collection instruction section.2. Nasopharyngeal swab
Transport / Collection Medium	Specimens should be collected and placed into Universal viral transport media (VTM or UTM) Specimens should be refrigerated at 2-8°C for up to 72hrs. Alternatively ship specimens on dry ice in compliance with DoT and IATA regulations governing Biological Substances, Category B (UN 3373) Monday -Thursday. Specimen can also be sent via courier Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.
Storage and Preservation of Specimen	Store at 2 – 8°C for up to 73hrs and submit to the laboratory as soon as possible; otherwise freeze at ≤-70°C.
Minimum Volume Required	3 mL
Additional Collection Instructions	Contact San Francisco Communicable Disease Control at 415-554-2830 prior to requesting this test. SFPHL requisition required for all specimens. In addition, please fill out CDC 50.34 Specimen submission form https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html . Conjunctival Sample Collection Instructions for Influenza A(H5) Testing https://www.sf.gov/file/conjunctival-sample-collection-influenza-ah5-testing
Additional Required Information	Label specimens with at least 2 patient identifiers.
Send Out?	
Turnaround Time	24 hours
Testing Restrictions	Results for this test will be reported as “presumptive”. Specimens will be sent to CDC for confirmation.
Requisition Form(s)	https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-03/DPH-LAB-COVID-Requisition-Form-Version-6.1.2023.pdf
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Please refer Centers for Disease Control Health Alert Network for Influenza A(H5). https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00506.asp