



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

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Test Order

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Real-time PCR

Synonym(s)	HPAI PCR
Methodology	Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
Acceptable Specimen Type(s) for Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Upper respiratory specimens:</b> For individuals that meet clinical and epidemiologic criteria for influenza A(H5N1) with respiratory illness, 2 specimens should be collected:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. One nasopharyngeal swab</li><li>2. A combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab (2 swabs combined into one viral transport media vial).</li></ol></li><li>- <b>Conjunctiva:</b> For individuals that meet the clinical and epidemiological criteria for influenza A(H5N1) with conjunctivitis (with or without respiratory symptoms), 2 specimens should be collected:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Conjunctival swab. Instructions for conjunctival Sample collection can be found here : XXXX</li><li>2. Nasopharyngeal swab</li></ol></li></ul>
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. 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 and submit to the laboratory as soon as possible; otherwise freeze at ≤-70°C.
Minimum Volume Required	3 mL
Additional Collection Instructions	SFPHL requisition required for all specimens. In addition, please fill out CDC 50.34 Specimen submission form <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html">https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html</a> . Conjunctival Sample Collection Instructions for Influenza A(H5) Testing <a href="https://www.sf.gov/file/conjunctival-sample-collection-influenza-ah5-testing">https://www.sf.gov/file/conjunctival-sample-collection-influenza-ah5-testing</a>
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)	<a href="https://www.sfcddp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DPH-Lab-COVID-Requisition-Form-Ver-2-2021.02.10.pdf">https://www.sfcddp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DPH-Lab-COVID-Requisition-Form-Ver-2-2021.02.10.pdf</a>
Limitations / Notes / Disclaimers	Please refer Centers for Disease Control Health Alert Network for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A(H5N1). <a href="https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00506.asp">https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00506.asp</a>