



**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, collect 2 specimens one nasopharyngeal swab and a combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swab.</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) please submit a nasopharyngeal swab and a conjunctival swab.</li></ul>
Transport / Collection Medium	Specimens should be collected and placed into Universal viral transport media (VTM). <b>Please note that UTM is not acceptable at this time.</b> 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> .
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.sfcddcp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DPH-Lab-COVID-Requisition-Form-Ver-2-2021.02.10.pdf">https://www.sfcddcp.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>

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