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Molecular Influenza/respiratory virus request form			

Send to: REGIONAL VIRUS LABORATORY, Kelvin Building, Royal Group of Hospitals Trust, Grosvenor Road, Belfast BT12 6BA. Direct Tel 028 96 155645 (9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

AFFIX LABEL OR ENTER DETAILS LEGIBLY

Male/Female	Surname	Forename	D.O.B.
Patients Address Or affix sticky label here:		H&C Number	
		Hospital	Consultant /GP
		Ward / Clinic	
Clinical information: (include onset or duration of symptoms)			
Note sputum, if available, is usually a better sample than swabs.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Combined Nasal and Throat Swabs for Influenza/respiratory testing <input type="checkbox"/> Other specimen (Specify) _____		Lab code {RSS}	
USE OF SPECIMEN COLLECTION KIT:			
<p>NASALSWAB: swab in capped tube. Insert swab into nostril parallel to palate, rotate gently for few seconds. THROAT SWAB: SWAB in PACKET with eNAT tube. Swab posterior pharynx & tonsil areas, avoiding tongue. Place BOTH the nasal and throat swabs into the eNAT tube enclosed in the pack. Both swabs have breaking points to allow them to be placed in the tube. IMPORTANT! the remaining shaft of the nasal swab is slightly too long to fit the tube. Fit the end of the shaft into the recess of the blue cap and push the cap down to tighten on the thread of the tube. Make sure that the lid is properly tight to prevent leaks. Label the tube with the patient's name & DOB or Hosp No and place in the biohazard bag. Then place this in the green and white envelope (UN3373) along with the request form supplied in the kit for transport to the Lab. Lysis buffer preservation medium is a skin and eye irritant. DO NOT PRE-WET SWABS BEFORE SAMPLING The form is normally issued as part of an assembled testing kit. If testing kits are not available, send dry swabs; cut the tips off about 2cm from end into a dry sterile container. Do not place the swab into gel or charcoal. Other acceptable specimens include respiratory secretions or sputum, in a container of appropriate size. Notes: During the period when Flu is circulating Samples that arrive by 11.00 am should have next day result available. Limited testing of urgent samples for same day result on request/justification with duty virologist. There will be weekend testing during flu season. As with weekdays must arrive by 11am for next day result. These testing kits should be available from your nearest A & E - and will be distributed to there once flu is circulating locally. There may be other local arrangements in individual Trusts.</p>			
Specimen type(s)	Specimen Date & Time	Laboratory Use	
Signature			

- Transport specimens to laboratory in sealed specimen bags. Ensure specimen container lids are well secured to prevent leakage in transit.
- For clinical virology advice contact Duty Virologist E-mail bl.dutyvirologist@belfasttrust.hscni.net Mobile 07889086946