

NWHC Protocol for the collection, storage, and shipment of cloacal swab samples (v.02/09/06)
Coordinate with NWHC before sampling begins: Chris Franson (608-270-2444) for live bird surveillance; Bob Dusek (608-270-2403) for hunter/subsistence harvest

Background information

Virus transport media is prepared at NWHC and 1.5cc is dispensed into 2.0cc cryovials pre-labeled with NWHC case and accession numbers. Cryovials are shipped on dry ice and can be stored at standard freezer temp (-20C) for the duration of the field season. Once thawed, virus transport media is good for 7 days refrigerated at 4C. Unused media vials also may be refrozen twice if needed. As samples are collected, vials can be kept on ice or blue ice packs during the day's work (use plenty of blue ice packs and keep the vials under them in the cooler), but should be transferred to liquid nitrogen vapor shippers at the end of the day. After returning from the field, vials can be transferred to ultra-low freezers (-80C) or shipped to NWHC (see below), but should not be stored at standard freezer temperature (-20C). Note any exceptions to ultra-cold storage on packing list and when entering field data.

Cloacal swab procedure

1. Thaw appropriate number of vials of media at refrigerator temperature (4 °C) or on ice and keep chilled with wet/blue ice packs in a cooler during the day of collection.
2. Unwrap a Dacron swab from the stem-end of the packaging (store swabs so they do not get wet), remove swab and insert the entire head of the swab into the cloaca. Use gentle pressure and in a circular motion, swab the inside circumference of the cloaca two or three times.
3. Shake off large pieces of feces before inserting the swab into the vial. With the swab in the media, rotate the stem of the swab between fingers vigorously. Lift the swab about ¼” from the bottom of the vial and bend the stem over the edge of the vial to break off the stem (plastic stems) or cut the stem with scissors (metal stems) so that the swab remains in the vial and the cap can be screwed tight. The entire swab end and a portion of the stem will be left in the tube. Scissors should be wiped with alcohol each time they are used to cut a stem.
4. Write 4-letter species code on vial with fine-tip Sharpie. Keep tubes on ice or ice packs and out of direct sunlight in cooler for transport to camp. Transfer tubes to nitrogen dry shipper.



Shipping to NWHC

Ship samples as “Diagnostic Specimens” (check current regulations) on dry ice (preferred) or blue ice packs (equal volume of ice packs and samples should keep them frozen overnight) via overnight courier (FEDEX preferred). Vials should be placed in chipboard cryovial boxes enclosed in leak proof plastic bags with absorbent material or, alternatively, directly into bags (heavy zip-locks) with absorbent material. Label cryovial box or zip-lock with NWHC case #, contact name, and species. Prevent dry ice or blue ice packs from damaging vials and leak proof plastic bags by wrapping in bubble-wrap or paper towels. Use freezer shipping containers (styrofoam cooler within cardboard box) as outer packaging. Tape packing list (see reverse) to top of styrofoam cooler, so it is visible when cardboard box is opened. Label outside of container “Diagnostic Specimens (Wildlife).” If dry ice is used, apply IATA label and declare dry ice on air bill. Vapor shippers can be used for sample transport (“Not restricted – dry shipper” and “IATA A800” on air bill). Useful websites:

Shipment of Diagnostic Specimens:

<http://depts.washington.edu/labweb/PatientCare/Clinical/Appendix/appk.pdf>

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/vdl/CourierService.htm>

Information on transport of dry shippers:

http://www.zoo.ufl.edu/julian/dry_shipper/TipsDryShipper.pdf

Ship package by overnight express (FEDEX preferred; Mon-Wed, unless other prearrangement) to:

Diana Goldberg

National Wildlife Health Center

6006 Schroeder Road

Madison, WI 53711

Phone 608-274-2455

Note: Please notify NWHC of shipments through the web-based system found at <http://wildlifedisease.nhii.gov/ai>. Only authorized personnel have access: see your data administrator.

Field Data (see reverse)

National Wildlife Health Center AI Sample Packing List

Sender's information

Name, affiliation:

Date sent:

Phone:

email:

NWHC case #:

Species:

Number of vials:

Location:

Shipped on: dry ice _____ vapor shipper _____ blue ice _____

NWHC use

Received by:

Date:

Logged in by:

Date:

Field data to send to NWHC:

Use the National HPAI Early Detection System through the Wildlife Disease Information Node

Visit <http://wildlifedisease.nhii.gov/ai>

Or contact: Josh Dein

Ph. 608-270-2450

joshua_dein@usgs.gov

Cross reference band or field number with NWHC case and accession number

Data fields include:

Band or ID #

GPS location

NWHC case #

Date collected

NWHC acc #

Sample type

Species

Submitter name, affiliation

Sex

Sampling strategy

Age

Place name