



Office of Marketing
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

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Animal Health

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Collection and Submission of Avian Swab Samples for Avian Influenza Virus and Newcastle Disease Virus Testing.

Sample collection must be performed by Category II Accredited Veterinarians, Agents of the State, or Maryland Authorized Poultry Testing Agents\* (Avian Influenza Virus ONLY)
Samples submitted from non approved personnel will not be accepted.

\* Poultry Testers may collect samples from non-sick birds for Avian Influenza ONLY. Poultry Testers should contact MDA HQ for sick birds testing

Brain Heart Infusion (BHI): To order or pick up BHI from Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory or Frederick Animal Health Laboratory, call with request 7-10 days prior to need. BHI can be stored in a home refrigerator or freezer. If you have access to a thermometer, set the freezer temperature around -20°C (-4°F) and the refrigerator around 4°C (40°F). Un-inoculated BHI can be stored in the refrigerator for a period of 5 days and in the freezer for 1 year (must be within expiration date labeled on the tube). BHI should be disposed of after these time periods. BHI must be kept in a cooler with adequate ice packs when taken into the field for sampling. Unused BHI taken into the field and not used must be disposed of and not re-refrigerated or re-frozen. Do not use BHI if at any time it appears cloudy. Do not inoculate tubes if they have less than or more than the appropriate starting volume (3 ml).

Correct swab type: Polyester or rayon swabs with plastic handle (flocked or spun head).

Table with 5 columns: BHI Tube Volume, # Swabs per Pool, Species, Sampling Route, Sample Tube Labeling Requirements. It details requirements for Gallinaceous Poultry and Domestic Ducks/Captive Waterfowl.

\*Swabs submitted dry or in a media other than BHI will not be accepted\*

Inoculated Samples Accepted for Testing

- 1. One species per tube. A SEPARATE SUBMISSION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH SPECIES.
2. One premises/house per tube.
3. One sampling route per tube.
4. Correct sampling route depending on species.
5. Correct pooling scheme according to above chart.
6. Swabs removed from tubes.
7. No less than 2.0 ml BHI remaining per tube. Tubes should never have more than 3 ml, tubes that do not meet these criteria may be subject to rejection. DO NOT TOP OFF TUBES WITH ADDITIONAL BHI AFTER SWABBING.
8. Outside of tubes arrive dry, caps tightened, and disinfected with Virkon-S or 10% bleach for 10 minutes after collection and wiped clean.
9. Clearly number and label each tube according to the above chart.
10. Tubes must be delivered to the lab no later than 72 hours after collection (samples may be rejected if greater than 72 hours post-collection).
11. Tubes must arrive with ice packs and be cool to the touch; samples should not arrive frozen or warm, or they may be rejected. DO NOT FREEZE TUBES IN A HOUSEHOLD FREEZER AFTER SWABBING.
12. Samples arrive with appropriate completed and legible submission form including date and time collected (MDA E-06 form).

\*\*If samples arrive outside of the above collection and shipping requirements, samples may be REJECTED and re-submission will be required.

This includes samples that have incomplete paperwork or are submitted by ineligible testers.\*\*