



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing,  
Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary  
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

## Animal Health

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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
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Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

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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).

| BHI Tube Volume | # Swabs per Pool | Species  | Sampling Route | Sample Tube Labeling Requirements   |
|-----------------|------------------|--|----------------|---|
| 3 ml            | 1 to 5           | Gallinaceous Poultry<br>(chicken, turkey, quail, etc.) | Tracheal       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owner/Farm Name</li> <li>Tube #</li> <li># of Birds</li> <li>Species</li> <li>Sampling Route (TR or CL)</li> </ul> |
|                 | 1 to 5           | Domestic Ducks<br>Captive Waterfowl                    | Cloacal        |   |

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

### Inoculated Samples Accepted for Testing

- One species per tube. **A SEPARATE SUBMISSION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH SPECIES.**
- One premises/house per tube.
- One sampling route per tube.
- Correct sampling route depending on species.
- Correct pooling scheme according to above chart.
- Swabs removed from tubes.
- 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.**
- Outside of tubes arrive dry, caps tightened, and disinfected with Virkon-S or 10% bleach for 10 minutes after collection and wiped clean.
- Clearly number and label each tube according to the above chart.
- 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).
- 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.**
- 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.\*\***

Please contact either laboratory with questions or concerns:

Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory, 27722 Nanticoke Rd. Salisbury, MD 21801, (410) 543-6610

Frederick Animal Health Laboratory, 1840 Rosemont Ave. Frederick, MD 21702, (301) 600-1548

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