



Office of Marketing, Animal Industries & Consumer Services

**Martin O'Malley**, Governor  
**Anthony G. Brown**, Lt. Governor  
**Roger L. Richardson**, Secretary  
**Earl F. Hance**, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay  
Internet: [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us)

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington  
301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.  
410.841.5914 Fax  
800.492.5590 Toll Free

April 30, 2009

## NOTICE TO MARYLAND VETERINARIANS

Veterinarians who work with pigs are requested to notify the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Animal Health Program, if they observe any and all pigs with influenza like illness (ILI). ILI clinical signs include: febrile, nasal discharges, coughing (barking), vomiting and diarrhea and/or abortion. Surveillance in swine is necessary to detect any presence of the H1N1 virus in suspect swine.

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:

1. **REPORT:** Report any influenza like illness (ILI) in pigs to MDA Animal Health at 410-841-5810. MDA will arrange for inspection if determined necessary, and/or give direction to the veterinarian for follow-up.
2. **SAMPLE:** MDA Animal Health will collect samples from pigs with ILI for Influenza A H1N1 testing, or arrange for the private veterinarian to collect samples.
3. **SUBMISSION:** Sample collection and submission directions are given in the attached document. We will update these procedures as necessary as directed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa. There is a proposed \$50 reimbursement from NVSL for each sample submitted to NVSL by a private veterinarian.
4. **HERD SAMPLING:** If there is an entire herd affected by influenza-like illness (ILI), NVSL recommends that 5 samples per herd be taken at each epidemiological site.
5. **BIO SECURITY:** It may be possible for pigs to become infected from infected humans. Good infection control and bio-security practices will reduce this risk. We ask that you practice tight bio-security measures, including foot protection, gloves and facemasks when visiting farms and/or handling swine.
6. **IN CASE OF OUTBREAK:** If an outbreak of the H1N1 Influenza A virus occurs in swine, it is important that you as a veterinarian plan ahead and determine how you will protect and manage yourself, your employees and your family. Please refer to CDC guidelines for specific guidance on personal protection at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,

**Guy Hohenhaus DVM, MPH**  
State Veterinarian



**Maryland  
Department of Agriculture**

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## SAMPLING AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES FOR H1N1 INFLUENZA A IN SWINE

**Maryland Department of Agriculture  
 Salisbury Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory  
 410-543-6610  
 April 30, 2009**

Based on sample testing that was conducted at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), the AI matrix RRT-PCR assay will detect Type A Influenza Virus in swine. At this moment the Salisbury laboratory can use the AI matrix RRT-PCR assay to detect Type A Influenza in samples submitted for testing. If the AI Matrix assay detects a positive sample, it will be sent to NVSL for confirmation and subtyping, i.e. to determine if the sample is the H1N1 of current human concern, or another influenza type virus.

The requirements at the moment are:

- 1) For biosecurity purposes, please call the Salisbury laboratory and inform them that samples are being sent for H1N1 influenza testing. The laboratory staff will take the appropriate measures to handle the samples upon receipt in a biosafety containment cabinet using appropriate biosecurity measures.
- 2) At this time, until we receive further instructions from NVSL, field personnel can use the following transport media for sample submissions:
  - Viral transport media (3 ml.) using the following formula (Preferred)  
 This media can be supplied by Salisbury Laboratory upon request.

**Example for 100ml  
Of Medium:**

1X PBS[RT] sterile 96ml		1X	final concentration
100X antibiotic/antimycotic[-20 <sup>0</sup> C] 2ml		2X	
Calf Serum[-20 <sup>0</sup> C] 2ml		2%	

- The remaining sample volume can be used for virus isolation if the RRT-PCR results are positive.

- 3) It is necessary to have a cooler with ice packs to keep the transport media cold before and after samples collection.
- 4) Label tubes with the animal identification number for trace back if needed.
- 5) Gently swab both nostrils using separate Dacron swabs (do not use calcium alginate swabs). Repeat to make duplicate sample (or swab each nostril with two Dacron swabs together; split to make duplicate sample).
- 6) Place the swabs containing the specimen in the labeled media tube and rotate the swab 5 – 10 times in media. When removing the swab from the tube, press the swab against the side of the tube repeatedly until no more liquid comes from the swab.
- 7) Discard the swabs in a biohazard container such as the red biohazard bags provided with your PPE for later disposal at the laboratory.
- 8) Pack the samples according to IATA regulations pertaining to UPS or FedEx shipment (classification = Biological Substance, Category B, UN 3373).
- 9) Ship samples to the Salisbury laboratory as soon as possible for testing. Make sure that enough ice packs are included to keep the sample(s) cold during shipment to the laboratory.
- 10) Please take all appropriate biosecurity precautions as would be required for Avian Influenza.

Sincerely,

Bob Robison  
Safety Officer  
Salisbury Animal Health Laboratory  
Maryland Department of Agriculture

Claudia Osorio  
Laboratory Director  
Salisbury Animal health Laboratory  
Maryland department of Agriculture