

# Flu Testing at the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory

The facility suspects a flu outbreak and contacts the Vermont Department of Health at 802-863-7240. A staff member is available 24/7 to take an outbreak report.



## Collecting Specimens

- Collect 3-5 specimens within the first three days of illness onset.
- Refrigerate specimens immediately upon collection.
- See [instructions for collecting specimens](#).
- If the facility does not have specimen collection kits, call Health Department Infectious Disease Epidemiology program at 802-863-7240.



## Transporting to the Health Department Laboratory

Within three days of collection:

- Include a [Clinical Test Request Form](#) with each individual specimen.
- Drop off the specimens at the nearest Emergency Department where they will be picked up by a courier service and brought to the Laboratory.

If unable to drop off at an Emergency Department:

- After notifying the Health Department, specimens can be dropped off directly at the Laboratory during business hours.
- If unable to drop off the specimens at an ED or the Laboratory, contact the Health Department for help coordinating specimen transportation.

If specimens are collected on the weekend:

- If they can arrive at the Laboratory within three days of collection, refrigerate them.
- If they will not arrive at the Laboratory within three days of collection, freeze them. Specimens can be dropped off at the nearest emergency department on Monday or the next business day.



## Testing Specimens at the Laboratory

Testing is performed twice a week. On the days that testing is performed:

- Specimens that arrive prior to 10 a.m. will be tested that day.
- Specimens that arrive after 10 a.m. will be tested on the next testing day.



## Reporting Results

Results are reported to the facility by email or fax. Unless emailed, a hard copy is mailed as well.