

SUBMITTING H1N1 SPECIMENS FOR TESTING

AHCCCS has received several questions related to the process for submitting H1N1 specimens for testing. ADHS has provided the following guidance:

The best guidance for clinicians sending specimens to the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL) is actually in the clinician guidelines at the following link on the website: http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/swine/pdfs/providers/swineflu_clinician.pdf These guidelines include a link to the laboratory submission form for the state laboratory and specific instructions on how to include it with the specimen. Clinicians should submit all specimens with the completed ASPHL form in a separate bag to their usual reference laboratory for forwarding to ASPHL.

Please note that as of Thursday, May 7th, ASPHL **will only accept specimens from hospitalized patients** and the ASPHL submission form must have "hospitalized" written on it for the lab to process the specimen. **Unfortunately, all other specimens will be rejected.**