

# **Sampling, Handling, and Shipping of Diagnostic Samples (Cloacal Swabs) for Avian Influenza Testing**

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# Handouts

- Cloacal swab protocol with NWHC contact information
- Information to include in a shipment to NWHC (packing list)
- Transportation of diagnostic samples
- Liquid nitrogen dry (vapor) shippers

# Storage of Viral Transport Media

## Before samples are collected

- Store at standard freezer temp (-20C) for the field season
- Thaw on ice or in a cool place
- Once thawed, vials should not be re-frozen
- Keep unused vials cool in field
- Thawed vials are good for 7 days on ice



# Cloacal Swab - Materials

Transport media



Dacron swabs  
2 sizes  
keep them dry



Gloves



# Collection Of Cloacal Swabs



Insert entire dacron head of swab;  
move with a circular motion to contact  
inside wall of cloaca to collect cloacal  
sample vs fecal sample



# Place Swab in Transport Media



NWHC accession # →

NWHC case # →



Cut (wipe scissors w/alcohol between swabs) or break stem and **leave swab in vial**



The NWHC case and accession # will tie the results to each bird

# Storage of Transport Media Containing Samples

After samples are collected, store at ultra-low temps (note any exceptions)

- Keep samples in cooler on ice while collecting swabs in the field
- Place samples in liquid nitrogen vapor shipper as soon as possible
- In town, store in ultra-low freezer (-80C)
- Ship to NWHC on dry ice (at least 5 kg)



# Nitrogen Vapor Shipper

Useful for  
transport of  
vials and  
field storage  
-150C





Check current regulations

See handout:

Must be properly  
charged and emptied

“Not Restricted” and  
“IATA A800” on  
air way bill

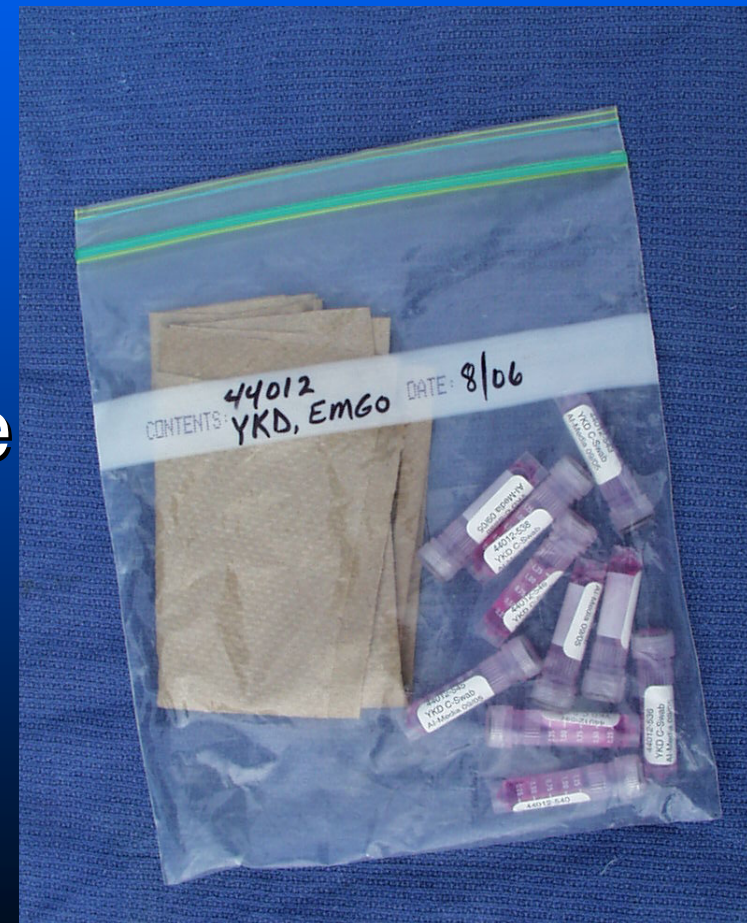
Letter in handout  
details non-  
hazardous status



# Shipments on Dry Ice or Blue Ice

Diagnostic specimens require triple packaging

1. Cryovial (in cryovial box, preferred)
2. Leak-proof plastic bag with absorbent material (protect the bag & vials from dry ice)
3. Shipping container



# Shipping Container

Check current regs

If dry ice: IATA dry ice label and declaration on air bill

“Diagnostic Specimens (Wildlife)”

Don't use plastic coolers with dry ice

Ship FedEx overnight



# Packing List Sent with Shipment

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## Sender's information

Name, affiliation:

Date sent:

Phone:

email:

NWHC case #:

Species:

Number of vials:

Location:

Shipped on: dry ice \_\_\_ vapor shipper \_\_\_ blue ice \_\_\_

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## NWHC use

Received by:

Date:

Logged in by:

Date:

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# Shipping Communications

- Ship overnight (Fedex preferred); ship Monday through Wednesday only unless other arrangements have been made
- Developing Web-based communication system for shipping notification
- NWHC will check site daily for information on incoming shipments

# Field Data

- Contact name
- Affiliation
- Strategy (live bird surveillance, hunter/subsistence harvest, mortality investigation)
- Species
- Band #
- Place name
- Date
- Sex
- Age
- Location (UTMs or lat/long)
- NWHC case #
- Accession #
- Comments


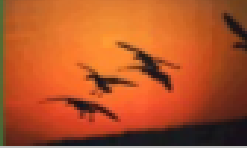
# Web-based Data Entry

Microsoft Excel - 1-16-06 Avian Influenza Data Entry

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Data Window Help

100% Arial

E8 fx

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2	<b>National HPAI Early Detection Data System</b>					
3						
4						
5	<i>Animal / Sample Data Entry Sheet</i>					
6						
7	<b>ID Type</b>	<b>ID Number</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Place Name</b>
8					<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						

# NWHC Contacts

- Live bird surveillance

**Chris Franson (608-270-2444)**

- Sport hunter/subsistence harvest

**Bob Dusek (608-270-2403)**

- Shipping samples

**Web-based system for notification**

See handout