



OIE Reference Laboratory
for Equine Influenza

Dr. Thomas M. Chambers
Gluck Equine Research Center
Department of Veterinary Science
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40546-0099
Ph (859) 218-1126
Fax (859) 257-8542
tmcham1@uky.edu

Nasal swabbing tips for equine influenza

1. Use 2 or 3 Q-tips or Culturettes held together to ensure obtaining enough sample.
2. The horse may need to be twitched to keep it still.
3. Insert the swabs at least 6 inches up the nostril. Avoid the blind pouch just inside the nostril.
4. Immediately transfer the swabs into one sterile vial or tube containing a suitable liquid transport medium.
 - PBS + 5 to 10% glycerol + antibiotics is preferred.
 - Sterile Normal Saline is satisfactory.
 - Lactated Ringers' Solution will do in a pinch.
 - Do NOT use water.
5. The volume of transport medium should be sufficient to completely cover the swabs or swab-heads, and at least 1 cc.
6. **Keep the vial with the swabs refrigerated. DO NOT FREEZE!**
7. As soon as possible (same day preferred), send by **overnight express** to:

Dr. Thomas Chambers
108 Gluck Equine Research Center
Department of Veterinary Science
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40546-0099

Do NOT ship for weekend or holiday delivery.
8. Please include the **Equine Influenza Submission Form** with the shipment.
9. **Please call** us before you send it so we know to expect your shipment.
10. Upon receipt, we will test the swabs using (a) a rapid influenza detection kit, or (b) virus culture in embryonated eggs, or (c) real-time PCR. Choice of test depends upon availability—for example, we do not always have embryonated eggs to hand. Results will be returned ASAP.
11. Swabs submitted from an outbreak that test negative for influenza may be referred to another lab within the Department for equine herpesvirus testing. We have no control over that testing.
12. Our payment policy is:
 - Swabs submitted for influenza testing in connection with diagnosis of a disease outbreak will be tested free of charge (egg culture and rapid detection test. There will be a charge for PCR).
 - Swabs submitted for testing in absence of disease outbreak (e.g. to satisfy import/export requirements) will be charged \$35 per swab.

THIS POLICY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

November 2016