

CARE HOME INSTRUCTIONS FOR PACKAGING & RETURN OF **FLU SPECIMENS ONLY**

Packages will contain the following items. Do not throw items away as all are required:



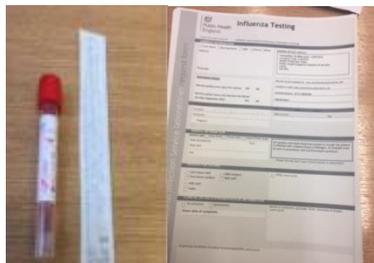
**A cardboard box** : for the return of samples to the lab. Do not write patient details on this outer packaging

**Clear specimen bag & absorbent pad** for sample to go inside secondary bag



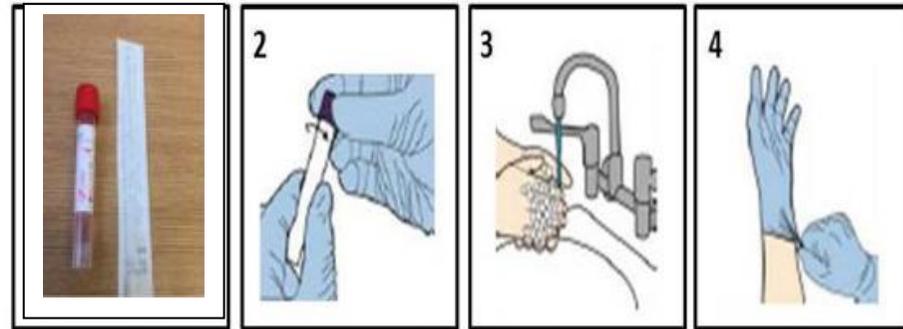
**Outer Leakproof Specimen Transport Bag**

Swab is placed in clear bag and then inside this special leak-proof bag before putting in box



**Packaged swab and separate RED UTM/VTM tube** to take sample. See instructions →

Request forms will also be provided with all packs. These must be filled in in full and one sent with every sample. Include Ilog no

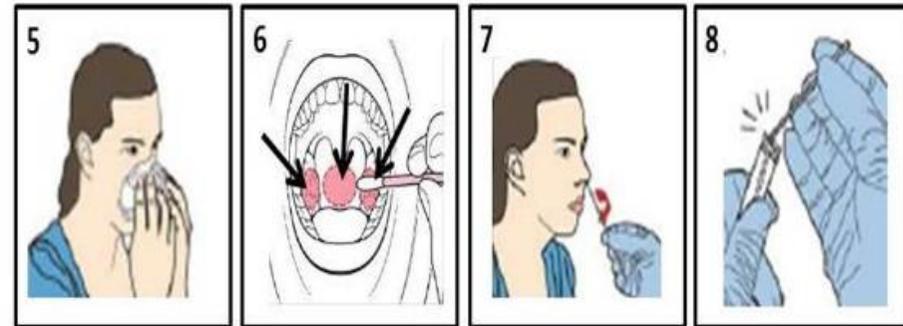


Ensure you have swab and **UTM**

Pre label with patient name and DOB

Wash your hands either using soap and water or alcohol gel.

Put on the correct PPE.



**Confirm the patient details match your pre-labelled swab.**

Ask the patient to clear any nasal discharge.

Swab the posterior pharynx , left and right tonsillar area as highlighted in pink. Avoid the tongue area.

**Using the same swab.** Insert approximately 2cm into the nostril or until resistance is felt. Rotate several times around the nasal wall. **Repeat process in the other nostril.**

Place the swab into the liquid, do not discard the liquid.

Break the swab at the point marked on the swab and screw on the lid.

Please turn over for further instructions

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1. Ensure the swab is **labelled** with the patient details - minimum name and date of birth



2. Wrap swab in absorbent pad and place in CLEAR bag



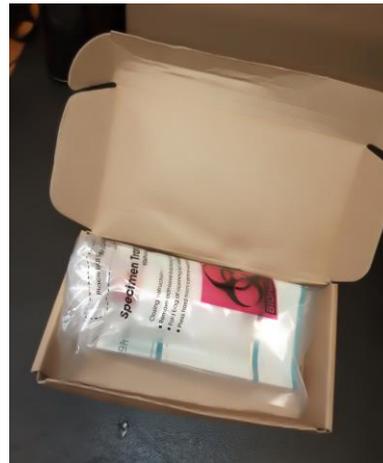
3. Place bagged sample inside transport bag - open at white end



4. Remove white backing paper and fold to seal. The star and box on bag should line up so the star is inside the box



4. Place COMPLETED INFLUENZA form in outer pocket of transport bag & place into the cardboard box ready for return to the laboratory.



5. Ensure all swabbing is completed on the day swab kits are received. Completed swabs and boxes must be ready for collection the following day.

A Citysprint courier will be booked by LTHT to collect the samples accordingly.

**PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT LTHT MICROBIOLOGY TO ARRANGE COLLECTIONS OR FOR RESULTS.**

**ALL RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED TO YOU, VIA YOUR LOCAL HEALTH PROTECTION TEAM**

**All samples taken, MUST be returned on one Citysprint courier collection.**