

## Guidance for Diagnostic Testing for Influenza A (H5N1) Virus in Lactating Dairy Cattle

Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center (NVDC), School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
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Recent Nebraska State Fair regulations require lactating dairy cattle to have a negative Influenza A H5N1 virus test no more than 7 days prior to arrival at the Fair. The NVDC is approved by the USDA NAHLN to run this testing. **If you have clinically ill or sick animals that may require testing, please contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) or USDA for instructions.**

Samples will be required to have a submission form and can be submitted on the NVDC ruminant diagnostic form ([Link](#)). **Sample submissions are required to have premise ID number (PIN) for the location of the animals. Please contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture if you do not have a PIN.** Please indicate that you would like Influenza A testing, for the state fair requirement for lactating dairy cows in the history or open text fields of the form.

### Sample Collection & Submission

Per USDA and state requirements, samples are to be collected by an accredited veterinarian, someone working under the guidance of an accredited veterinarian, or a sample collector approved by the appropriate state animal health official.

Sample collection and testing must take place no more than seven (7) days prior to arrival. Samples to be collected are milk/udder secretion sampled from each quarter, collected in a leak proof tube containing 3-10 mL of total milk sample per cow. Attempts should be made to include approximately equal volumes of milk from each quarter in the tube to make up the 3-10 mL total volume. Recommended collection tubes are a 50 mL conical collection tube ([Link](#)) or a 4.5-5 mL collection tube ([Link](#)) which can be ordered from NVDC if needed ([Link](#)).

**Do not pool samples. Submit samples from individual animals only.** should be chilled and shipped overnight with frozen gel packs. Use an insulated shipping container with submission information in a leakproof container (Ziploc/whirlpack) Insulated shipping containers can also be purchased from the NVDC on our website ([Link](#)).

Samples can be shipped using NVDC EZ-ship with an immediately printed shipping label available on our website ([Link](#)) or shipped via overnight mail to the address below:

Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
Room 230A NVDC  
4040 East Campus Loop North  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0907

### Testing Times

Results should be available the afternoon of the business day following receipt of the samples but could be up to three days after receipt of the samples.

**Testing Fees**

Fees for milk testing of lactating dairy cattle for HPAI are paid by the USDA. Collection, shipping, and/or transport costs are not covered by the USDA.

**Additional Information**

Please refer to the guidance document on APHIS Requirements and Recommendations for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 Virus in Livestock for State Animal Health Officials, Accredited Veterinarians and Producers.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/aphis-requirements-recommendations-hpai-livestock.pdf>

**Additional Contact Information**

Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA)- 402-471-2351