

Quick Reference for Submitting Samples to PDRC for Avian Metapneumovirus Testing

Sample collection

Preferred samples: **whole heads (including cervical stem)**, tracheas, tracheal or oropharyngeal swabs in transport media and nares.

The timing of tissue or swab collection is critical for detection and/or virus isolation of AmPV. Collect samples at earliest timepoint following identification of drop in egg production or first sign of respiratory disease.

Instructions for taking swabs

Use dacron or polyester swabs and transport media. Swabs can be pooled in groups of 5 swabs per tube containing 3 mls of transport media. It is best to have 2 people for swab collection - 1 person holds the bird and the other person swabs the bird.

1. Open first swab and swab bird's trachea or choanal cleft palate and place in tube containing transport media.
 - a. Use scissors to cut metal swab stem or break off plastic swab stem so that swab is below the cap line of the tube.
 - b. For swab pools, be sure to keep cap on swab tubes in between swab collections to avoid contamination.
 - c. Once you have 5 swabs from each sample site in one tube, snap the cap completely closed. Use more tubes as needed to complete flock sampling.
2. Place capped tubes on ice after collection.
3. ***It's important to maintain the cold chain from the point of collection through transport to the diagnostic lab.*** If shipping same day express for next day delivery, samples can be stored at 4C and shipped with frozen cold packs. If shipping > 24 hours after collection, samples should be frozen at -80C and shipped express on dry ice.

Shipping samples to PDRC

1. Make sure all tubes are securely closed and place in ziplock bags to prevent leakage.
2. Please complete the PDRC submission form in the shipment box.
3. Ship refrigerated samples on frozen cold packs and ship frozen samples on dry ice (preferable) or frozen cold packs.

Send overnight express delivery to:

PDRC/UGA

Attn: Diagnostic lab

953 College Station Rd.

Athens, GA 30602

PDRC Lab Website:

