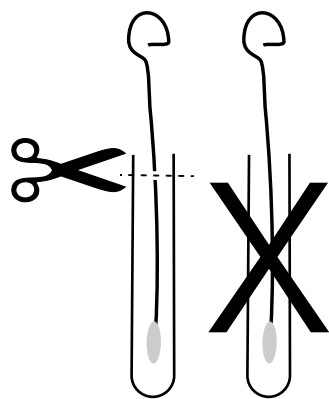

URGENT

Information to submitters of nasopharyngeal swabs to the Public Health Laboratory for the investigation of respiratory infections

The Public Health Laboratory requires your cooperation and attention to the following instructions as you package and submit samples for respiratory infections.

- If you are submitting more than one specimen on a patient, each tube or container must be placed in a separate sealed biobag. In this way any leakage will not contaminate adjacent containers.

For proper packaging of nasopharyngeal swabs to prevent leakage in transit please adhere to the following:



- Ensure that the shaft of the swab is cut below the level of the top of the tube to allow enough room for the cap to be screwed tight enough to completely seal the tube. If the shaft is too long, it interferes with proper closing of the top.
 - The cap must be closed completely. Any gap will result in the sample leaking in transit to the laboratory.
- Samples that leak in transit may have insufficient sample which compromises the Laboratory's ability to process your sample in a timely manner.
 - Leaking specimens result in delays in processing of the specimen and could include a request for a repeat specimen.
 - Leaking samples present a potential hazard to anyone who has to handle the specimen.

Your cooperation regarding this matter will assist us in efficiently processing patient specimens.

If you have any questions about the above, please contact: (416) 235-5725