

## What is Influenza Like Illness (ILI)?

ILI is an acute onset of respiratory illness with **fever and cough** and **with one or more** of the following: sore throat, arthralgia, myalgia or prostration (extreme fatigue).

**Note:** In patients  $\geq 65$ , fever may not be prominent. Children  $< 5$  years old may also have gastrointestinal symptoms.

## What is Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI)?

ARI is a respiratory illness with new or worsening cough.

### Who is Eligible to participate in the SPSN?

Consenting Ontario residents presenting with ILI/ARI within **7 days of symptoms onset**.

### Did patient / guardian give verbal consent?

Yes

No

Continue with routine clinical care, **without** completing the SPSN questionnaire.

- A** Give consent page to the patient / guardian for their records.
- B** Proceed with filling out the requisition.
- C** Follow safety guidelines, including the use of recommended PPE, and proceed with specimen collection.

### The Requisition



- Fill out the **entire** Requisition including the SPSN-VE Evaluation Questionnaire 2023-2024.

If the patient has **any** of the listed chronic conditions please mark the **"YES"** checkbox.

Please **DO NOT** specify the condition.

- In addition to the patient's and your contact information (full name and address) pay particular attention to the following critical elements:

- **Specimen collection date**
- **Date of ILI/ARI onset**
- **Vaccination history**

**Note:** Specimens with incomplete requisition may be rejected.

### Collecting Patient Specimen



- Use Nasal Swab or Nasopharygeal Swab techniques.

A demonstration of NP swab collection is available at the following web link:  
<http://youtu.be/DVJNWefmHjE>

- Label the tube** with the following **2 identifiers**:

- **Patient's Full Name**
- **Date of Birth**

**Note:** Specimens not fulfilling this criteria will be rejected

### Packaging the Specimen



- Place the tube in a bio-hazard bag and seal the bag.
- Insert the completed SPSN requisition to the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.

#### Notes:

Keep the specimen refrigerated @ 4°C until ready to send.

Send the specimen to your local Public Health Ontario Laboratory using routine procedures.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us:

SPSN.ON@oahpp.ca    647-792-3187    [www.publichealthontario.ca/VE](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/VE)