

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

The Requisition

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1 Fill out the **entire** Requisition including the current season SPSN-VE Evaluation Questionnaire.

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

Please **DO NOT** specify the condition.
- 2** 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

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1 Use Nasal Swab or Nasopharyngeal Swab techniques.

A demonstration of NP swab collection is available at the following web link:
<http://youtu.be/DVJNWefmHjE>
- 2** **Label the tube** with the following **2 identifiers**:

• **Patient's Full Name**

• **Date of Birth**

Note: Specimens not fulfilling these criteria will be rejected.

Packaging the Specimen

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1 Place the tube in a bio-hazard bag and seal the bag.

2 Insert the completed SPSN requisition to the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.
- Notes:**

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

Send the specimen to your local Public Health Ontario Laboratory within 72hrs, using routine procedures.