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

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

1. 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.

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

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 this criteria will be rejected

Packaging the Specimen

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 @ 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:
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