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.

Who is Eligible to participate in the SPSN?
Consenting Ontario residents presenting with ILI and are within 7 days of symptoms onset.

Did patient/guardian give verbal consent?
Yes
No

Collecting patient specimen

Nasal Swab
Nasopharyngeal Swab

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 and DATE OF BIRTH (Note: specimens not fulfilling these criteria will be rejected)

Thank You!!
Continue with routine clinical care, without completing the SPSN questionnaire.

Droplet and contact precautions must be initiated, including use of gloves, surgical mask with facial protection and possibly a gown.

Keep the specimen refrigerated @ 4°C until ready to send.
Send the specimen to your local Public Health Ontario Laboratory using routine procedures.

The Requisition
Fill out the entire Requisition and SPSN-VE Evaluation Questionnaire 2019-2020.

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

If the patient has any of the listed chronic conditions please mark the “Y” 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 onset
⇒ Vaccination history.

Note: Specimens with incomplete requisition may be rejected.
Upon receiving your sentinel kit
Place the SPSN requisitions and patient consent forms in an accessible location.
Store the swabs in a cool dry place.

Collecting a specimen from your patient
Obtain the patient or guardian’s consent.
Take a specimen kit, including a VE requisition and consent, swab and biohazard bag.
Check the expiration date of the swab and transport media (it may not be the same!) Discard if expired.
Fill out the requisition and patient questionnaire and place it in the document pocket of the biohazard bag.
Collect a nasal or nasopharyngeal swab, place the swab in the media tube, break off the handle side of the swab and close the tube’s cap tightly. Leaky specimens will be rejected.
Place the closed tube in the biohazard bag and seal the bag.

Shipping the specimen
Store the specimen in the fridge @ 4°C until ready to ship.
Submit the specimen together with the completed SPSN requisition to your local Public Health Ontario Laboratory following your office’s routine specimen submission procedures.
Please contact Romy by phone or email with any question or concern, or to order more SPSN supplies.