



Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory  
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## **ISDA Collection/Submission Guide for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) for Avian and Bovine Species**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) offers polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for HPAI in both Avian and Bovine swabs and raw milk samples, respectively. As a federally regulated test, HPAI sample collection must adhere to strict collection and transportation guidelines. These guidelines are established in *NVSL-WI-0023 Sample Collection for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease*, published in coordination by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory and National Animal Health Laboratory Network. As a member of this Laboratory Network, the ISDA must follow strict guidelines on sample collection, submission, and receipt, as outlined below.

### **Summarized Requirements for Avian Influenza (AI) Submissions**

The ISDA only accepts veterinarian collected and submitted samples. We do not accept owner/producer collected samples, regardless of species.

#### **Avian – Swabs**

1. Sample types are collected according to avian species:
  - a. Tracheal/Oropharyngeal (TR/OP) swabs should be collected for gallinaceous poultry,
  - b. Cloacal (CL) swabs for domestic waterfowl and other wild birds.
2. Only utilize synthetic or semi-synthetic swabs for all avian species sampling. Do not use swabs with wooden handles.
3. For field-pooled sample submissions, the following must apply.
  - a. Swab pools must consist of animals from:
    - i. Same species
    - ii. Same premises/house/barn
    - iii. Same sampling route (Do not mix TR/OP and CL swabs)
  - b. A maximum of 5 swabs can be pooled in one sample.
4. Submit swabs in a minimum of 5mL of suitable VTM (Viral Transport Media); ISDA only accepts MTM or BHI.
  - a. Note: Storage conditions vary depending on media type. Check manufacturer guidelines before use.
5. Swab-inoculated tubes should be thoroughly mixed into the VTM suspension and then should be discarded at the time of collection.
6. Store and ship swab-inoculated tubes cold, not frozen, on indirect ice packs. Swab-inoculated samples must be received at the lab within 3 days of collection.

#### **Bovine – Raw Milk**

1. Samples must not contain any preservatives; Raw Milk only.
2. The ISDA accepts both individual animal and bulk tank submissions.
3. A minimum of 6mL of milk is needed for testing.
  - a. Submissions must be submitted in a 15mL or 50mL screw-top conical tube. Snap-cap and rubber-stop containers will not be accepted.
  - b. Sample containers should be filled no more than 75% full, regardless of tube size to prevent spillage.
4. Store and ship raw milk cold, not frozen, on indirect ice packs. Raw milk must be received at the lab within 5 days of collection.
  - a. Raw Milk samples must be received at the lab by no later than Wednesday at 12:00pm for testing.



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## All Samples

1. All HPAI samples must be submitted with the **AIV Laboratory Submission Form** – Do not use the general lab submission form.
  - a. All fields are required. Incomplete or incorrect paperwork may result in delays in testing or sample rejection.
2. Samples should be transported in individual, sealable bags with absorbent material. Paperwork should be in a separate sealed bag.
3. Collection tubes must be clearly labeled with an indelible marker (e.g., Sharpie, or equivalent), and labels must match the identification on the submission form.
4. Due to the highly infectious nature of Avian Influenza, samples should be packaged in separate, leak-proof containers, preferably insulated. Do not combine HPAI submissions with samples for other lab sections or tests (e.g., Coggins, Trich, Brucellosis, etc.).
  - a. If possible, for packages shipped to the lab by courier or other delivery service, please label the outer surface with “MOLECULAR,” so that samples can be promptly delivered to the correct lab section.

We understand that these are strict requirements, but they are necessary from both a regulatory and safety standpoint. We appreciate your help adhering to these collection and submission requirements.

For questions regarding Collection or Submission of HPAI samples, please contact the lab at (208) 332-8570, or email our direct Avian Influenza email: [AIV@isda.idaho.gov](mailto:AIV@isda.idaho.gov).