

## COLLECTION OF SWAB SAMPLES FROM DEAD BIRDS

Please Note: In collecting and submitting samples, identify the Premises precisely. All submission forms should include a Premises ID Number. If you do not know the number, request one from the RI DEM Division of Agriculture (DAG at 401-222-2781). If a Premises ID number is unavailable, on all submission forms record the street address where the samples were taken. (Note: That address may differ from the grower's mailing address.)

### Tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs:

- Collect tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs for virus detection testing from fifteen (15) birds representative of the flock. Take swab samples from any dead or sick birds first, and then swab other birds to collect 15 swabs. If there are fewer than 15 birds in the flock, collect samples from all birds.
- Use dry swabs for dead bird sample collection; use swabs moistened with VTM for live bird sample collection.
- Insert the swab and rub the mucosa vigorously.
- Use 1 swab for each bird.
- Place swabs into tubes containing enough VTM to moisten and cover the swabs.
- Place 11 swabs (from 11 different birds) into one tube.
- Submit a total of 3 tubes, each containing 11 swabs.
- Identify the premises as precisely as possible (ideally with a Premises ID Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
- Submit a completed submission form which includes a Premises ID.

### Cloacal swabs:\*\*

- Collect cloacal swabs for virus detection testing from fifteen (15) birds representative of the flock. Take swab samples from any dead or sick birds first, and then swab other birds to collect 15 swabs. If there are fewer than 15 birds in the flock, collect samples from all birds.
- Use dry swabs for dead bird sample collection; use swabs moistened with VTM for live bird sample collection.
- Insert the swab and rub the mucosa vigorously.
- Use 1 swab for each bird.
- Place swabs into tubes containing enough VTM to moisten and cover the swabs.
- Place 11 swabs (from 11 different birds) into one tube.
- Submit a total of 3 tubes, each containing 11 swabs.
- Write the farm name and Premises ID on the side of the box of samples (not on the lid).
- Submit a completed submission form which includes a Premises ID.

\*All samples must be taken by a certified poultry technician or by government authorized personnel (DAG, USDA, universities, and laboratory personnel).

\*\*Waterfowl: Cloacal swabs required.

The RI DEM Division of Agriculture reserves the right to amend the above mentioned requirements for Avian Influenza with the goal of any changes still being to prevent, contain and eliminate the disease. Changes to the general guidelines of the protocol may result from information including, but not limited to, virus strain, pathogenicity, morbidity and mortality, movement of birds and products, and additional epidemiological information obtained as a result of avian influenza investigations.