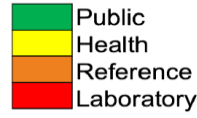
	Public Health Reference Laboratory (PHRL)	
	Guidelines for Influenza Specimen Packing and Transportation to PHRL-KMU	
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Public Health Reference Laboratory (PHRL) is committed to provide quality services for disease surveillance through Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The PHRLs generate information that is essential for guiding responses to infectious disease outbreaks by public health practitioners, epidemiologists and clinicians. These information are also essential for the establishment of national health policy and epidemic preparedness.

To ensure the best possible practice, to benefit the patient truly and to contain the spread of Influenza, the sample must be collected according to SOP and fulfil the following guidelines while transporting to PHRL;

- a) Samples container (VTM/ UTM TUBE) must be properly labelled with double identification marks i.e. NAME & Sample ID perfectly reflecting the excel sheet attached.
- b) Samples should be packed in boxes at required temperature in such a manner that each box must contain no more than 20 samples per box and biohazard bags should be used.
- c) Make sure that samples must be sorted in small groups of 05-10/ bag, with individual requisition/Referral form for all samples attached/inserted in the pocket.
- d) After collection and packaging the sample, it must be immediately sent to PHRL-KMU.
- e) Excel sheets of the samples must be double checked for any duplication, in case of similarity in names.

Specimen Rejection Criteria

If specimen does not meet acceptable criteria it may be rejected by the laboratory. The following are criteria used for the possible rejection of specimens:

- Specimen improperly labeled as to the patient identity (as per above criteria)
 - Patient identification mismatched between specimen and requisition form/ excel sheet data.
 - Improper collection container i.e., leakage or broken sample tube or container.
 - Sample collection date is older than 2 days from the date of receiving.
 - Improperly transported (i.e., not on required temperature)
 - Specimen contaminated with biological hazardous material.
- All Labs can coordinate and follow-up the results on 091-9219651 and each Lab are expected to maintain complete record of samples sending, results and communication with PHRL focal person.
 - For any further assistance Dr. Asad Zia (Microbiologist) may be contacted.