

Guidelines for postmortem sample collection in Influenza like illness (ILI) / Severe Acute Respiratory infection (SARI)

National Influenza Centre, Department of Virology, MRI 011 269 3532-4 Ext 437
(lab.) 463 (M.O.) Fax: 011 269 1495

Type of Specimen:

1. Open biopsy sample (NOT a Part of Lung)
2. Tracheal Secretions
3. Tru-Cut biopsy sample (if unable to do autopsy)

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, gown, mask, and eye protection.

Method of collection:

1. Open biopsy Samples:

- Take two open biopsy samples from the lung during autopsy.
- Do not send a part of the lung.
- Use sterile techniques and sterile instruments for sample collection.
- Place the sample in the transport medium*.
- Document the collection site and procedure.

2. Tracheal Secretions:

- Collect using swabs during autopsy.
- Rotate swab gently to collect secretions from trachea.
- Place the swab in the transport medium*.

3. Tru-Cut Biopsy samples: (if unable to do autopsy)

- Collect tissue samples using Tru-Cut needle biopsy via intercostal space.
- Cleanse the biopsy site with antiseptic solution.
- Use sterile needles and instruments for biopsy.
- Place samples in sterile leakproof containers containing the transport medium*.
- Document the biopsy procedure, including the site and number of samples collected.

*All samples should be sent in Viral Transport Media (VTM) or in case of VTM unavailability send in sterile normal saline.

- **Avoid formalin or alcohol.**

Label all containers with patient information, SR (postmortem) number and sample type clearly.

As much as possible mention details of the clinical presentation, postmortem findings, travel history etc in the request form along with the name of JMO or contact person.