

## Equine respiratory disease

### Nasal swabbing tips

1. Sample horses having respiratory symptoms (pirexia, nasal discharge).
2. The horse needs to be restrained for appropriate sampling.
3. Use commercial available nasopharyngeal swabs with polyester (dacron or rayon) tips and plastic shafts. A standard uterine swab can also be used. Use 2-3 swabs held together for more efficient sampling.
4. Insert the swabs as far as possible into the nostril. Avoid the blind pouch located inside the nostril. Swabs should be rubbed against the mucosa and held for one minute to absorb respiratory secretions.
5. Transfer the swabs into a tube containing sufficient viral transport medium to cover the swab tip (2 ml is fine in most cases). Cut the end of the swabs and close the tube.
6. When taking multiple samples, care must be taken to avoid cross-contamination.

Suitable virus transport medium\*:

- PBS + 10% glycerol + antibiotics, or
  - Sterile normal saline isotonic solution (0.9% Na)
7. Send to the laboratory (refrigerated with cold packs preferred, do not freeze) for testing.
  8. Please, **include the Submission Form** and let us know you are sending a sample.
  9. Upon receipt, the swabs will be tested for EHV-1 and Influenza using **PCR** (result available in one day) and for EHV-1, EHV-4 and Influenza using **virus isolation** (result available in four days-five days)

### Blood sampling

Please send in the same package:

**Citrate or EDTA blood:** May be used to detect EHV-1 from white blood cells.

**Clotted blood or serum:** For antibody detection (result available in 3-5 days). The test requires two samples collected at a 2-3 week interval (please, send another sample). Serological testing is unlikely to provide a diagnosis during an ongoing disease outbreak.

### Isolate sick horses

Prevent a sick horse from having contact with other horses. Take measures to ensure that the disease is not transmitted to other horses through contaminated hands, clothing or equipment.

\*We provide free of charge: nasal swabs and 15-ml tubes containing suitable virus transport medium.