

Respiratory Illness Surveillance Aboard US Ships Instructions for Weekly Reporting and Specimen Collection

Weekly Reporting

Each weekly reporting period will begin on Monday and end on Sunday. Please use the Weekly Summary Form to record the number of sailors on board and the number of those who presented with Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI)¹ each week. Please submit weekly to the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC), via fax DSN/Comm (619) 553-7601, or email to “FRI@nhrc.navy.mil”

Case Data and Specimen Collection

A. Informed Consent and Case Report

When you identify a FRI¹ case, Informed Consent must be obtained from the sailor before collecting the specimen. Ask the sailor to read and sign the short Informed Consent section on the back of the Case Report. Please also have the sailor sign a second copy of the consent form, (the sheet with only the consent), and place it in the patient’s medical record. Next, complete the Case Report Form for the sailor’s illness, including a barcode label.

B. Specimen Collection

Please collect a throat swab specimen from each sailor with FRI using the provided sterile Dacron swab.

Place the swab directly into the viral media vial (pink liquid) and break (or cut) off swab tip so that it remains in the vial. Aliquot 0.2 ml into a sterile plastic vial for on-board PCR testing. Place identical Study ID labels on both the original and aliquot vials. Store the aliquot in a regular (–20°C) freezer and store the original sample (containing the swab) in a liquid N2 container.

Please be sure to place **identical Study ID labels** on the specimen vial, aliquot vial, Case Report Form, and FRI Log Sheet so that the case data and lab result can be matched up later.

If using a liquid nitrogen container for storage of specimens: Please replenish the liquid nitrogen supply at regular intervals (every 3 months should be adequate). If the alarm comes on, please replenish the N2 supply ASAP. If there is no accessible supply of liquid nitrogen and the tank runs out completely, please “double-bag” the specimens, and place in the coldest refrigerator/freezer/container possible until the tank is re-filled. Also, please contact the study coordinators at DSN/Comm (619) 553-7607, or email to “FRI@nhrc.navy.mil” if this situation should occur.

¹FRI Case Definition: oral temperature $\geq 100.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ **and** either cough or sore throat. Also, any case of non-bacterial pneumonia should be included in the count, regardless of fever.