

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 an 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 –70°C freezer.

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.

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.