

Thank you for assisting with animal and/or environmental sampling as we try to determine the source of germs that are making people sick. Certain germs, such as *Salmonella*, can be present in farm or pet animals. These germs may not cause illness or symptoms in animals but can make people sick.

These samples will be tested at a lab to look for germs that are genetically linked to human illnesses. For more information, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html>.

Please review the companion video instructions linked below before proceeding:



Animal and Environmental Sampling: Chickens
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VSXd0ICCM0>

Sampling Priorities

Please collect the marked samples below. Public health partners have determined these samples are most relevant based on this investigation.

- Food
- Food/water dishes
- Stool
- Roost/coop
- Floor material
- Shipping materials
- Cloaca*
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

**Note: Cloacal swabbing is not recommended unless performed by trained professional.*

PREPARATION

1

Contact your public health laboratory for sample collection and shipping directions that are specific to your investigation and laboratory testing.

Gather all necessary supplies for easy access before starting sample collection. Label all containers as required by your public health laboratory (location, date, time, etc).

Example Supplies:

- Gloves
- Sterile swabs, sterile gauze
- Sterile transport medium
- Sterile screw capped tubes or culturette kits
- Sterile container
- Fecal collection vial
- Sterile tongue depressor



2

Put on gloves before handling the animal or their environment.

FOOD AND FEEDER SAMPLES

3

Collect samples of food in feeder by pinching a small amount with gloved hand. Place into empty sterile container and seal. Keep different food types separate. Do not submit samples of live insects.



4

Moisten swab or gauze to prepare for sampling by pouring a small amount of sterile water or transport medium onto them.



5

Wipe the inside of the food and water dishes using moistened swab or gauze. Use a new moistened swab or gauze for each collection.



6

Place sampled swab or gauze into container with appropriate transport medium, and seal for transport.



STOOL SAMPLE

7

Collect freshly deposited fecal material in the coop/enclosure and place into sterile container with no transport media.



ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

8

Wipe roosting boxes, perches, and other heavily soiled areas of coop using moistened gauze or swab. Place each gauze or swab into a sterile container.



9

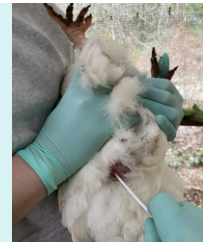
Collect samples of soiled substrate from the floor of the coop/enclosure by pinching a small amount with gloved hand. Place into empty sterile container and seal.



ANIMAL SAMPLE

10

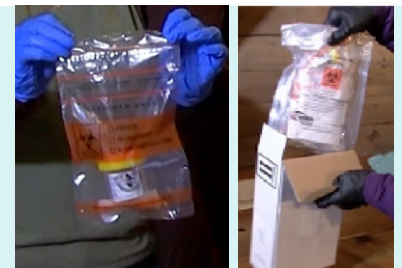
Gently swab cloacal opening, or vent, of chicken with sterile swab. Place into sterile transport vial with transport medium. **Cloacal swabbing is not recommended unless performed by a trained professional.** An additional person may be needed to help hold the animal.



PACKAGING

11

Ensure containers are properly labelled, closed and sealed.
Place containers with collected samples into clear plastic biohazard bag along with absorbent cloth.
Complete appropriate laboratory paperwork and finalize packing.



Follow packaging and shipping instructions from your public health laboratory.

12

After all samples are properly packaged, remove and dispose of gloves and wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.