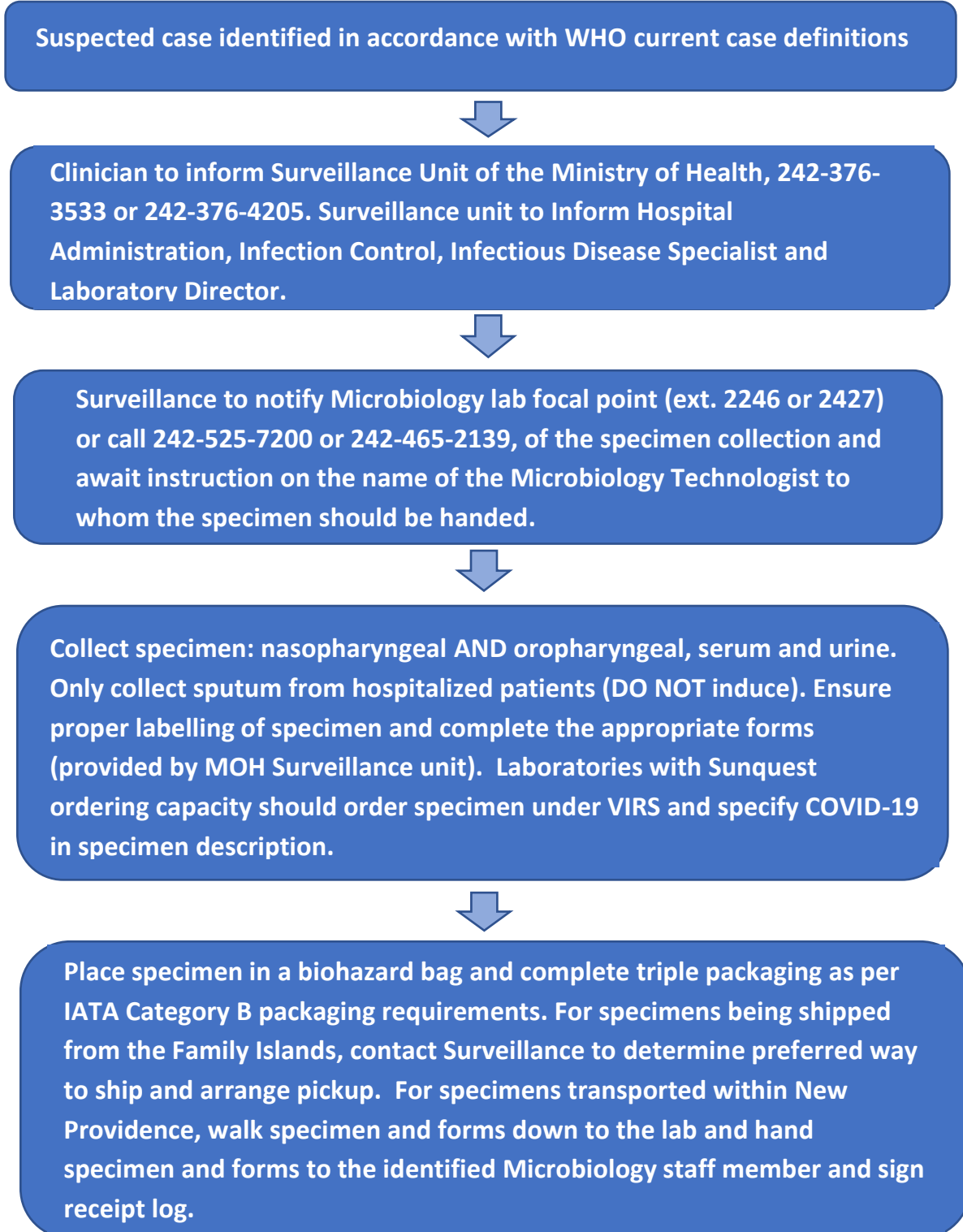


The Public Hospitals Authority
Princess Margaret Hospital
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Laboratory Pre-analytical Instructions for Suspected COVID-19 Cases

Figure 1: PMH Laboratory Algorithm for Outside Sources (Private and Public Hospitals, Private and Public Clinics and the Family Islands)



The Public Hospitals Authority
Princess Margaret Hospital
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

COMMUNICATION FROM LABORATORY TO SUPPORT ALGORITHM

The PMH Laboratory offers Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Testing (RIDTs) at the moment, which is used as a screening test. This rapid test for Influenza typing has been verified using the RT PCR method, and positive samples and some negatives are always sent to CARPHA for confirmation and subtyping of Influenza. If a private lab or medical office is using a RIDT as intended by the manufacturer in the point of care setting, a similar verification should be performed to assess the kits performance. Additionally, interlaboratory comparisons or EQAs should be performed as recommended by NHI as an ongoing assessment of the performance of the test kits.

For suspect COVID-19 cases, sample collection must be done safely with the appropriately donned PPE. Further, for suspected cases, processing of samples should be performed in accordance with the World Health Organization guidance on biosafety standards. If these standards are available and used, samples may be sent directly to the national reference lab for further testing for SARS-CoV2, otherwise samples should be sent to PMH for processing and transfer to the national reference lab as outlined in the document attached.

The currently used viral transport media (VTM) is the commercially prepared BD VTM, please find link for product description below. Additionally, the Copan Universal Transport Media (UTM) may also be used, the link is also included below. For any other viral transport media, I recommend that the product details be provided for review by the National Reference Lab. This is needed to determine if such media is appropriate for the maintenance and safe extraction of viral RNA for molecular testing and confirmation.

1. BD VTM - <https://www.bd.com/en-us/offerings/capabilities/specimen-collection/swab-based-specimen-collection/bd-universal-viral-transport-system>
2. Copan UTM - <https://www.copanusa.com/sample-collection-transport-processing/utm-viral-transport/>

I have attached the algorithm for specimen flow as it pertains to outside PMH clinics and private physicians, if samples are not processed prior to sending to PMH Lab.

I am available to discuss further should you require additional information.

Kind regards,

Jessica A. Edwards MBBS, DM
Medical Microbiologist
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Princess Margaret Hospital
Nassau, The Bahamas
Tel: 242 322 2861 ext 2246 (w) 242 525 7200(c)