

## Testing Lactating Dairy Cows for Influenza A Prior to Interstate Shipment: Guidelines from the SDSU ADRDL

The USDA has implemented a pre-movement Influenza A [testing requirement for lactating dairy cows moving across state lines](#).

At this time, fees for influenza A PCR testing at NAHLN veterinary diagnostic laboratories, including the SDSU ADRDL, are being paid by the USDA.

Current guidelines for testing include:

### Samples:

- Milk samples are the only approved sample.
  - Milk from each quarter should be combined in one vial for each cow. Cows are required to be tested individually.
  - Submit milk in screw top containers if possible. If snap cap containers are used, ensure lids fit tightly

### Submission:

- Premises ID's are necessary. If your operation does not have a premise ID, contact the South Dakota Animal Industry Board.
- Accurate individual animal ID's are of critical importance. Discrepancies between ID's on sample labels and ID's on submission forms may result in delays that could preclude the ability for animals to be shipped.
- Veterinarians are encouraged to use the ADRDL's Electronic Submission form in order to expedite and ensure the accuracy of result reporting. Contact the ADRDL at 605-688-5171 if you have questions about electronic submission.

### Testing:

- The USDA order states that animals must test negative within 7 days of shipment. NAHLN laboratories are required to report test results within 3 days of their arrival at the lab.
- At SDSU, Influenza A PCR testing for lactating dairy cows will take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays each week, with results generally the same day.

### Results:

- Results will be available to veterinarians as usual via the ADRDL's result portal.
- Positive results will be reported to the state veterinarian and to USDA APHIS and will likely require follow up disease investigation.

This federal order only applies to currently lactating dairy cows, not dry cows, bred heifers, or youngstock, although this might change in the future.

Please contact the ADRDL at 605-688-5171 or [sdsu.adrdl@sdstate.edu](mailto:sdsu.adrdl@sdstate.edu) with any questions.