



protocol for the use of cotton swabs

1. when to sample

- a. in acute phase if the origin of symptoms is unclear
- b. at the end of cycle if there are general problems with performance

2. which birds to sample

- a. clearly diseased birds
- b. if general performance is not good, at the end of the production cycle. Choose birds that look average, neither the smallest nor the biggest birds should be used. Sample at least 25 birds

3. how many samples to take:

Pool five birds on one swab. Five swabs can be pooled for one analysis of the PCR screening package. In total, 25 birds can be sampled.

4. which swabs to use

We recommend the use of urethral swabs with cotton tip and aluminum rod. On bigger birds, deceased birds and for cloacal swabs, it is also possible to use normal sized cotton swabs with aluminum or plastic rod .

Avoid the use of wooden swabs at all times.

5. store and send

Swabs for PCR can be sent by ambient temperature, however long exposure to very high temperatures should be avoided (>40°C).

Send swabs to the following address:

**Prins Albertlaan 112
8870 Izegem
BELGIUM**



detailed information on timepoint and organ system

PCR package “respiratory broiler”

timepoint: when experiencing clinical symptoms and the origin is unclear
recommended: tracheal swabs

PCR package “respiratory layer”

timepoint: when experiencing clinical symptoms and the origin is unclear
recommended: tracheal swabs

PLEASE NOTE:

this package can also be used for breeder flocks. Addition of an Ms/Mg DIVA analysis is recommended to distinguish circulating field pathogen from vaccine strains.

No extra samples are necessary, but the test should be indicated on the request form.

PCR package “immunodeficiency”

timepoint: towards the end of the production cycle
recommended: cloacal swabs

PCR package “biosecurity check”

timepoint: 5-7 days of age
recommended: cloacal swabs

PCR package “locomotory”

timepoint: when experiencing clinical symptoms and the origin is unclear
recommended: swabs from trachea & cloaca (first go for 5 swabs from trachea, switch then to cloaca with the same swabs). If available, swabs from affected joints can be used.