



## PRESS RELEASE 27th April, 2009

# Viral Transport Medium for Influenza Viruses

The current investigation of a possible new pandemic strain of swine influenza virus<sup>1</sup> highlights the need for readily available virus transport system. New strains require to be identified and characterised by culture, normally in state public health laboratories, or at national surveillance laboratories, such as CDC<sup>2</sup>. Medical Wire's Virocult® system is a ready to use transport swab kit, including a rayon bud specimen collection swab, and a tube of virus transport medium that can be stored and transmitted in refrigerated or ambient conditions. The liquid medium includes antibiotics to prevent risk of contamination to cell cultures, and is conveniently held within a foam pad inside the tube. There are no ampoules to break, no powders to rehydrate. The swab features our trademark bell cap with a very secure double seal for safe transport of infectious agents. A presentation at the recent Clinical Virology Symposium<sup>3</sup> demonstrated that Virocult would maintain influenza type A virus in a viable condition for at least 8 days at both refrigerated and room temperatures, while also being compatible with the many molecular techniques for routine rapid identification of known strains. Virocult® conforms to CLSI's M40-A standard<sup>4</sup> for transport devices is approved and registered for use throughout the world, including the US and Canada.

1. WHO - Public Health Emergency of International Concern  
Date: 25 Mar 2009  
[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1\\_20090425/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_20090425/en/index.html)  
Statement by WHO director-general, Dr Margaret Chan [25 Apr 2009] Swine influenza
2. CDC Health Advisory Distributed via Health Alert Network  
April 25, 2009, 3:00 EST (03:00 PM EDT) CDCHAN-000281-2009-04-25-ALT-N Investigation and Interim Recommendations: Swine Influenza (H1N1)

3. Rudsdale, A.. & D. Shedden, 20th April, 2009, Investigation of the Suitability of the Virocult® Swab Transport Device for Influenza A Specimens Which Are to be Analyzed by Cell Culture or Molecular Techniques, *POSTER M42*, *Clinical Virology Symposium 2009*, *Daytona Beach*
4. NCCLS, 2003, Quality Control of Microbiological Transport Systems: Approved Standard NCCLS Document M40-A

The advertisement features the mwe medical wire logo at the top left. Below it, the text reads: "Combined collection and transport system for viruses incorporating a specially formulated liquid transport medium." An inset photo shows hands using the swab. To the right, a Virocult CE tube is shown with a yellow foam pad inside. The text "Samples can be quickly processed in the laboratory with minimum hands-on time" is positioned next to the tube. At the bottom, it says "M40 COMPLIANT" and "Virocult® CE". On the right side, the text "Collection & Transportation" is written vertically.

[www.mwe.co.uk](http://www.mwe.co.uk)  
[www.mwe-usa.com](http://www.mwe-usa.com)

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