



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Copan Ramps Up Production of Kits for Collection of Nasopharyngeal Samples to Detect Swine Flu Virus



Murrieta, California, April 29th, 2009— As the World Health Organization raises the current level of the influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to 5, physicians' offices, hospital clinics, and emergency rooms prepare to accommodate patients with symptoms of respiratory viral infection.

Copan, the world's largest manufacturer of sampling collection kits for viruses announced today that the daily manufacturing of sampling kits

for Influenza Virus has been increased considerably to meet the growing demand from the US and global market. The company located in Brescia has tripled its daily production of virus collection kits.

The flu sample collection kits comprises of a patented flocked swab which has been shown in many independent clinical studies to improve the results of respiratory virus diagnostic tests by collecting more patient specimen and then delivering the entire sample into the assay platform or cell culture tube. The swab is provided together with Copan's Universal Transport Medium (UTM) which is the optimum kit combination for virology culture, rapid antigen testing, and DFA testing for influenza virus; and the use of the combined products is also a universal open platform collection and transport system that has been successfully used for culture, EIA, PCR and other molecular based assays.

“We are scaling up production of Flocked Swabs and UTM to address the potential demand,” says Norman Sharples, Copan Executive VP. “Our production of Flocked Swabs and UTM has been increased to include shifts 24 hours per day, and we are working closely with our distribution partners to help supply them in case the Swine Flu outbreak escalates further,” Sharples affirms.

In cases of influenza, collecting a proper sample in a timely manner is crucial. Copan Flocked Swabs, as opposed to traditional nasopharyngeal washes or aspirates, facilitate the easier sample collection and produce comparable results. Also, by using a Flocked Swab and UTM, the sample collection can be done in outpatient departments and remote sites and can be safely transported to the laboratories for testing. To optimize results, Copan has worked with scientists and physicians to develop several training videos in English and Spanish on the correct procedures to properly collect nasopharyngeal swab samples for the diagnosis of respiratory virus infections, like the Swine Flu. The videos are available on the company’s website and are free of charge.

About Copan Diagnostics, Inc.

With a reputation for innovation in preanalytics, Copan Diagnostics is the leading manufacturer of collection and transport systems in the world. Copan offers a complete range of microbial sampling products used for traditional culture analysis and for molecular diagnostic assays, as well as producing innovations, like the patented Flocked Swabs, Universal Transport Medium and ESwab. The company manufactures a comprehensive line of laboratory consumables comprising of inoculation loops, needles, spreaders and transfer pipettes. Copan also produces WASP: Walk-Away Specimen Processor, a new revolutionary system for automatic planting and streaking of microbiology samples. For more information about Copan, visit www.copanusa.com