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Local Manufacturer Helps in the Fight Against Swine Flu with an Advanced Viral Transport Media



Photo Credit – Christopher Catani

Hardy Diagnostics has been working overtime lately to meet the demand for its viral transport kit used in the detection of “Swine Flu” (Influenza A/H1N1 virus). Hardy Diagnostics is a Santa Maria based medical device manufacturer specializing in products to isolate and identify microorganisms.

Hardy Diagnostics’ viral transport device is used by medical professionals to collect and transport viral specimens for the detection of Swine Flu and other viruses. The viral transport kit contains a swab on a flexible shaft that is used to collect a nasopharyngeal viral specimen from those suffering from flu symptoms. This swab is inserted deep into the nasal cavity (nasopharynx), in order to collect a sampling of viral particles. The swab is then inserted into a plastic tube containing a specialized liquid medium designed to keep the virus alive during transport to the laboratory. Once in the laboratory, testing is performed to identify the virus.

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This transport liquid device contains a mixture of carbohydrates, proteins, and pH buffers that are used to preserve the viability of the virus. It also contains antibiotics to eliminate interfering bacteria present in the specimen.

“This product has been somewhat of a “sleeper” for us until now” states Jay Hardy, the president of Hardy Diagnostics. “Lately we have been working late to meet the overwhelming demand.”

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending this device and similar ones be used to process specimens when they are sent to public health laboratories for identification. Due to the mounting numbers of Swine Flu victims, it appears the demand for these types of products produced by Hardy Diagnostics will be growing in the near future.

Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO 13485 certified manufacturer of medical devices for microbiological procedures in both clinical and industrial laboratories. Over 6,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy Diagnostics throughout the nation. Hardy Diagnostics was founded in 1980 in Santa Barbara by Jay Hardy and Robert Shibata while they were Medical Technologists completing laboratory training at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Today, Hardy Diagnostics maintains six distribution centers throughout the U.S. All manufacturing takes place at its headquarters in Santa Maria, California. The company also exports products to over 30 nations. The company’s mission is to partner with its laboratory customers to prevent and diagnose disease. For more information, visit www.hardydiagnostics.com.

For additional information on Hardy’s viral transport kit, contact Christopher Catani.

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