



**MLS: Laboratory Advisory
Human Swine Influenza A
April 23, 2009**



****Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution****

This is an advisory message from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

NOTE: MDH-PHL is requesting specimens from **ALL** suspect Influenza-like illness cases.

BACKGROUND

Action steps for healthcare providers: Consider influenza and obtain specimens for patients with respiratory symptoms who have traveled recently to or had contact with ill persons from San Diego or Imperial Counties, California or San Antonio, Texas.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just announced that seven cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) have occurred recently with five cases in southern California and two cases in San Antonio, Texas. All seven cases were identified through routine influenza surveillance. All seven had self-limited febrile respiratory illness and were seen on an out-patient basis only. Two were adults and five were children. None had any exposure to swine. All seven had viruses with identical genetic sequences that contain a unique combination of gene segments previously not seen in humans or swine in the United States. The viruses that were tested were resistant to amantadine and rimandatine, and sensitive to oseltamivir and zanamivir.

Clinicians in Minnesota who see patients who have respiratory symptoms who have traveled recently to or had contact with ill persons from San Diego or Imperial Counties in California, or San Antonio, Texas should consider influenza in the differential diagnosis and obtain a respiratory specimen for testing. Please call 651-676-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 for consultation and specimen information. Plans for increased testing from selected clinical sites in Minnesota are in progress.

WHAT LABORATORIANS NEED TO KNOW

IMPORTANT: Please Send Positive Influenza Samples

Due to the recent cases of a novel swine influenza as noted above, MDH-PHL needs your help to assess the influenza subtype(s) that may be present in our communities. Therefore, when your laboratory obtains a positive rapid influenza result, including PCR (or culture-positive), please send an appropriate sample to MDH-PHL – please see appropriate sample types later in this document.

What sample type to submit to MDH-PHL

- Preferred specimen is a combination throat/nasal pharyngeal swab or oral pharyngeal swab or nasal wash or most other routine respiratory specimens will be acceptable.
- When influenza is detected in your laboratory by RAPID TESTING methods, please send an aliquot (1-2 ml) of the original suspension (not exposed to test kit reagents) in viral transport media or sterile diluent; or if an additional original specimen is available, that is preferable.

- When influenza is detected in your laboratory by VIRAL CULTURE, please send the actively growing viral culture tube with 2 ml of viral maintenance media.

-If you have questions regarding specimen collection, please call Susan Fuller at 651-201-5255.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MDH website at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/mls/index.html (under Hot Topics)

MMWR at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0421a1.htm

CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm

We will continue to update you as information becomes available. Please visit the MLS website at www.health.state.mn.us/mls for continuing updates under “Disease specific information”- “Influenza”.

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www.health.state.mn.us/mls