



MLS Laboratory Update #21
H1N1 – New CDC Interim Guidance for the Use
of Rapid Influenza Testing
August 4, 2009



****Please forward** this message to all appropriate personnel within your institution and any CLINIC or PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE with which you are affiliated**

This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) 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.

New Interim Guidance for the Use of Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Testing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted interim guidance – July 29, 2009 titled: “Interim Guidance for the Detection of Novel Influenza A Virus Using Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests” this supersedes guidance titled: “Use of Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests for Patients with Influenza-like Illness during the Novel H1N1 Influenza Virus (Swine Flu) Outbreak” previously posted to this web site on May 2, 2009.

The new interim guidance provides an overview of the sensitivities of rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT) in detecting influenza A (H1N1) virus in order to help guide the reporting and interpretation of test results. This guidance is intended primarily for all individuals who may be processing or performing rapid influenza diagnostic testing on respiratory specimens from patients with suspected influenza A (H1N1) virus infection. An example of a statement to accompany rapid influenza diagnostic test results and an algorithm to assist in the interpretation of RIDT results during periods when influenza viruses are circulating in the community are contained in this interim guidance. Guidance will be updated as needed based on new data.

Please share this information with your clinicians.

Link to guidance:

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm

Additional Resources

You are encouraged to sign up for MDH and CDC “What's New” H1N1 web pages to get the latest non-urgent H1N1 information.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/new.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/whatsnew.htm>

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