



**MLS: Influenza Laboratory Update #4
Revised Screening Form & Information on
Lab Tests Affected by Nasal Mist Vaccine
October 19, 2009**



Purpose of this Message:

To inform Laboratorians, Hospital Infection Preventionists, and Physicians about 1) revisions to the “MDH PCR Testing for Influenza” **screening form** to be completed for samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) for testing, and 2) influenza **test result interpretation difficulties** due to administration of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) for either seasonal or novel H1N1 influenza.

1. Revised Screening Form

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/hcp/screening.pdf>

The screening form for MDH-PHL influenza PCR testing has been updated with additional questions on recent administration of seasonal or novel H1N1 LAIV given as a nasal mist. A question on pregnancy is included to help us more quickly compile information on this possible risk factor for more serious disease.

Questions about this form can be directed to Epidemiology at 651-201-5414.

2. Influenza Test Result Interpretation Difficulties Associated with LAIV Administration

MDH-PHL has obtained PCR testing results that have been positive for multiple influenza types in a single specimen from individuals with recent vaccination with LAIV. Because live virus is used in this vaccine, recent vaccination can impact PCR test results. The product inserts for MedImmune FluMist seasonal and novel H1N1 vaccines state:

“At least one vaccine strain was isolated from 80% of FluMist recipients; strains were recovered from 1-21 days post vaccination (mean duration of 7.6 days \pm 3.4 days)...The duration of FluMist vaccine virus replication and shedding have not been established.”

Based on this information, PCR test results from patients who have received FluMist prior to specimen collection should be interpreted with caution. It is also conceivable that rapid influenza diagnostic testing could be affected by a patient’s prior receipt of either seasonal or novel H1N1 FluMist vaccine.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about influenza reporting please contact MDH Epidemiology at 651-201-5414. If you have questions about influenza result interpretation from MDH-PHL, please contact Dave Boxrud, Molecular Epidemiology Unit Supervisor at 651-201-5257.

Thank You,

Paula M. Snippes, MT (ASCP)
Program Advisor, Minnesota Laboratory System
Public Health Laboratory, Minnesota Department of Health
Phone: 651-201-5581

paula.snippes@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us/mls

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.

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

The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties. It is for official use only. Do not distribute beyond the intended recipient groups as described in this message