



**MLS: Influenza Laboratory Update #12**  
**Update on Influenza Testing at MDH-Public**  
**Health Laboratory**  
**June 23, 2010**



**Purpose of this Message**

- (1) To inform clinical laboratories that MDH – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) will again be decreasing the frequency of testing for influenza by RT-PCR.
- (2) To announce the FDA clearance of the CDC Influenza 2009 A (H1N1) PCR test.
- (3) To remind laboratories to continue submission of specimens for influenza surveillance and continue to report disease.
- (4) To remind virology laboratories to continue to send an isolate from all positive influenza viral cultures to MDH-PHL.

**(1) MDH Influenza RT-PCR will be performed once per week**

Due to greatly reduced numbers of specimens submitted for influenza testing, MDH-PHL will discontinue bi-weekly influenza RT-PCR testing. Testing will be performed instead only once per week on Thursdays. If additional significant decreases in volume occur, further reductions in the frequency of testing will be implemented.

**(2) FDA Clearance of CDC Influenza 2009 A (H1N1) PCR Test**

The FDA cleared the CDC Influenza 2009 A (H1N1) pdm (pandemic) Real-Time RT-PCR Panel (IVD) for diagnostic Influenza testing on June 22, 2010. This regulatory action will facilitate a smooth transition from the EUA assay that has been in use for the past year to the newly cleared in vitro diagnostic (IVD) assay that detects the Influenza 2009 A (H1N1) virus. This assay will be distributed to all Influenza qualified laboratories in early July. For CDC press release:

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2010/r100622.htm>

**(3) Surveillance Continues for Hospitalized Patients**

MDH continues to monitor influenza disease. It is important that all hospitalized cases of influenza be reported. As such, MDH is requesting continued reporting of ANY hospitalized cases of laboratory-positive influenza, and submission of specimens on all patients admitted with influenza-like illness (ILI) or clinical suspicion of influenza. [Note: if your laboratory is performing influenza PCR, you are requested to send only positive samples.]

**(4) MDH-PHL Performing Subtyping on Influenza Isolates**

Influenza isolates submitted by clinical virology laboratories are subtyped to monitor the influenza strain currently circulating in the state and for the identification of new influenza virus strains. Selected influenza isolates are forwarded to CDC for neuraminidase subtyping. In addition, MN-PHL laboratory is performing oseltamivir susceptibility testing on a subset of positive 2009 H1N1 specimens. To date there has been no resistant strain found in Minnesota.

Thank you for your continued assistance in influenza surveillance.

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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 to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System\*\***

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