Purpose of this message: To provide new information regarding the evaluation of rapid influenza diagnostic tests for Influenza A (H3N2)v.

Action Items – No immediate action is required

Background
The following is a condensed version of a larger MMWR article titled: “Evaluation of Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests for Influenza A *H3N2)v virus and Updated Case count - United States, 2012”. The entire article with charts, etc. can be accessed at:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm61e0810a1_e

Rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs) frequently are used for the diagnosis of influenza infection in clinical settings, and the recent outbreaks of H3N2v virus have highlighted the need to evaluate commercially available, widely used RIDTs for their ability to detect H3N2v viruses. As an initial assessment, CDC conducted an evaluation of seven FDA-cleared RIDTs with seven H3N2v viruses. Only four of seven RIDTs in this study (Directigen, Sofia, Veritor, and Xpect) detected all influenza A (H3N2)v viruses. BinaxNOW detected five of seven, and QuickVue detected three of seven. FluAlert detected only one of seven.

H3N2v surveillance at MDH
Enhanced surveillance for H3N2v continues at MDH. For more information on when to send a specimen for testing and specimen requirements, please see our website:
http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/clin/labflu.html

For up-to-date information about H3N2v or influenza in general, please see the MDH influenza website at www.mdhflu.com

MDH Contact information
Specimen Submission and Laboratory Testing: Sara Vetter, Virology Laboratory Supervisor at 651-201-5255 or Dave Boxrud, Molecular Epidemiology Supervisor at 651-201-5257.
Influenza Case Reporting: MDH Epidemiology at 651-201-5414.

Providers should call MDH at 1-877-676-5414 to report suspect cases and to request testing, please do not submit specimens to the MDH Public Health Laboratory without prior authorization.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support of influenza surveillance efforts in Minnesota.

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