



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

From: Epidemiology & Communicable Disease Program

To: Will County Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Hospital Laboratories

August 27, 2009

Re: **Submission and Testing Practices for Novel Influenza A (H1N1) at the Illinois Department of Public Health Division of Laboratories (Effective for specimens received by the IDPH on or after September 14, 2009)**

This guidance is provided as a resource for Illinois Laboratories and Health Care Facilities. The current situation may change rapidly; guidance will be updated as necessary to reflect evolving circumstances. This guidance is not applicable to specimens referred by sentinel site providers and coroners/medical examiners.

The following information regarding use of IDPH Division of Laboratories for influenza PCR testing, including testing for novel H1N1 influenza is intended to ensure that the resources of the IDPH Division of Laboratories are used effectively.

As of September 14, 2009, IDPH will only solicit and test specimens from hospitalized patients (inpatients) with acute febrile respiratory illness, and specimens approved by the Will County Health Department (please call 815-727-8481 to receive an approval) on a case by case basis (e.g. for outbreak management in a residential congregate facility).

Use of a new IDPH Request for Respiratory/Influenza Testing form is required as of September 14th, as specimen requisitions will be reviewed for specific criteria when received. You will be notified in early September when this new form is posted on the IDPH website. If specimens do not specify criteria or do not appear to meet criteria for approved testing, submitters will be contacted. These criteria for approved testing may be modified as the outbreak of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus continues.

Note: This guidance pertains to testing for cases of public health interest and should not be considered guidance for clinical management of individual patients.

In order to obtain influenza PCR testing (e.g. diagnostic testing for outpatient care) of specimens that do not meet approval criteria specified above, healthcare facilities/providers and clinical laboratories should inquire with their reference laboratory. Influenza PCR testing is now available at a number of hospital and clinical laboratories (see attached list), with whom arrangements for testing can be made prior to September 14th.

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Laboratories Offering Influenza PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) Testing Updated 08/21/09

Points of contact to arrange setting up a billing account, specimen shipping, etc., for influenza PCR testing are listed below. Testing protocols vary by laboratory (e.g., not every lab performs sub-typing). Laboratories are listed in alphabetical order; IDPH does not endorse any particular laboratory. This list may be incomplete; it is based on available information as of date listed above, and will be updated periodically.

Facility	Point of Contact	Phone
ACL Laboratories	Sales	800- 624-3134
Alverno Clinical Laboratories, LLC	Jennifer Skeen, PhD	800-937-5521
Marshfield Labs	Sandra Molter	800-222-5835, x16278
Mayo Medical Laboratories	Customer Service	800.533.1710
North Shore University Health System	Brian Staes	847-663-2105
Northwestern Memorial Hospital	Marcia Anderson	312-926-4296
Quest Diagnostics	Customer Service	866- 697-8378
University of Illinois	Jessica Badilla	312-996-4800

If you have any questions, please contact the IDPH Division of Laboratories (Chicago: 312-793-4760; Springfield: 217-782- 6562; Carbondale: 618-457-5131) or Will County Health Department at (815) 727-8481.

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