ODH Surveillance Algorithm for Testing of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza A

Effective October 30, 2009

(Adapted from CDC Recommendations as of 10/9/2009 – Guidance Subject to Change)

Ohio testing goals: To confirm severe cases of H1N1 for surveillance purposes.

ODH will only perform pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza A testing on:

- Individuals hospitalized with ILI who tested negative on rapid influenza diagnostic test [1, 2, 3]

Individuals hospitalized with ILI [1, 2, 3]

Obtain any of the following: nasopharyngeal swab (*preferred*); nasal aspirate; nasal swab plus throat swab; or nasal wash [4]

- Place swab or material in viral transport media
- Store in refrigerator while awaiting transport (do not freeze)
- The testing facility writes **"**Hospitalized**"** on ODH lab slip and forwards the sample to the ODH lab (the health department does not need to be notified to gain permission to submit to the ODH lab)
- Hospitalized cases must be reported by the end of the work week - Class B(2) reporting requirements for hospitalized cases
- Hospitalized ILI cases are reported in ODRS as influenza-associated hospitalizations
- ODH Lab will notify the sending facility of the results
- ODH Lab will not be accepting any post-mortem specimens for H1N1 testing.

ODH Laboratory Shipping Instructions:

- For nasopharyngeal swabs, use only sterile dacron or rayon swabs with plastic shafts.
- Place the swabs immediately into sterile vials containing 2 ml of viral transport media. Break the applicator sticks off near the tip to permit tightening of the cap.
- Specimens should be sent by Priority Overnight Shipping for receipt within 24 hours. Samples must be kept cold for the duration of the shipment. Specimens must be tested within 5 days of collection.
- When sending clinical specimens, include the ODH viral isolation sheet and write either "Hospitalized H1N1".
- Specimen information should include rapid influenza test result if available.
- Include patient name, date of birth, gender, specimen type, collection date, submitter address, phone, and secure fax number on the requisition form (Form 2529). Failure to do so may delay test results.
- All shipments must comply with current DOT/IATA shipping regulations and protocols.
- For delivery of packages using DHL, UPS, US Cargo and other carriers, ship specimens to Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, 8995 E. Main Street, Building 22, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

1. Reports of confirmed pandemic influenza A H1N1 symptoms have included: fever, cough, sore throat, watery eyes, vomiting, body aches. As with seasonal influenza, infants, adults ≥65 years of age and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.
2. Information on caring for patients can be found at: : http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance .
3. H1N1 testing by the ODH lab is not intended to be used to rule-out multiple possible diagnoses. Samples should only be submitted if the physician believes the individual has H1N1. The ODH laboratory provides surveillance services for H1N1 and is not equipped as a clinical diagnostic laboratory. ODH lab will not be accepting any post-mortem specimens for testing.
4. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for identifying H1N1 (swine flu) virus. Rapid antigen tests and immunofluorescence tests have unknown sensitivity and specificity to detect H1N1 virus. For more information see: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm.

Note: Enhanced outpatient ILI surveillance will be conducted via routine laboratory submissions from providers participating in the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet).

Last updated by ODH on 10/29/09.