



# Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Board of Health



November 2, 2009 – Update

## Ohio Department of Health Laboratory Testing for Pandemic (H1N1)2009 Influenza A

Dear Healthcare Providers and Infectious Disease Practitioners:

In light of the latest ODH Surveillance Algorithm, the Franklin County Board of Health and Columbus Public Health want to update you concerning laboratory testing for Pandemic (H1N1)2009 Influenza A.

### Laboratory Testing

ODH Laboratory will conduct testing for **Pandemic (H1N1)2009 Influenza A** on the following:

- Individuals hospitalized with ILI who tested negative on rapid influenza diagnostic test

*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.*

For cases meeting the above criteria in City of Columbus and Franklin County, the NP specimens can be sent to ODH Laboratory directly without approval from the local health department.

Complete and submit the ODH Virus Isolation Submission form. Write in '**HOSPITALIZED**' under the tentative diagnosis section. This **must** be marked/written on the form for ODH laboratory testing.

Test results will be reported directly to the ordering facility as usual procedure. These changes involving laboratory process should be communicated to your hospital laboratory staff directly by the Infectious Control Practitioners in your facilities

The latest ODH Surveillance Algorithm for Testing of **Pandemic (H1N1)2009 Influenza A** describes the recommended process. See reference document link below.

## **Reporting**

***“Influenza-associated pediatric mortality”*** will remain a **Class B (1)** reportable disease. ***“Influenza-associated hospitalizations”*** will continue to be reported as **Class B (2)** diseases. Clusters of influenza cases will continue to be reported as **Class C outbreaks**.

Thank you.

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Please visit <http://www.cdrsinfo.com/H1N1flu.html> for reference documents.

## **List of Reference Documents**

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

ODHL Viral Submission Form

CDC Recommendations for the Amount of Time Persons with Influenza-Like Illness Should be Away from Others

Influenza Associated Hospitalization Case Report Form

Influenza Associated Pediatric Death Case Report Form