

# Novel/Avian Influenza Algorithm

## Michigan Department of Community Health

### Instructions for Clinical Labs

**NOTE: This algorithm will be updated as necessary. Please visit the MDCH website at [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu) and MIHAN for updates and for BioSafety Guidelines in collecting and handling of specimens.**

### *Novel/Avian Influenza Suspect Case:*

Patient risk assessment (see †) and pre-approval for Novel/Avian Influenza testing required from Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE), 517-335-8165 or 517-335-9030 after hours.

Collect specimens (see @) and ship to MDCH immediately with frozen cold packs. The submitting lab should **not** set-up or order viral cultures but may continue with routine culture testing for alternative non-viral agents. Samples should be submitted to MDCH for novel influenza testing **regardless** of results of other influenza tests (i.e., even if rapid flu tests are negative).

PCR at MDCH for  
Flu A (H1, H3 and H5 subtypes),  
And Flu B

Flu A +, H1 or H3+, OR B +, and **H5 -**

BOL to telephone BOE.  
Result reported via MDCH LIMS.  
Viral culture or further viral characterization may proceed at MDCH or submitter laboratory depending on resources. (Sputum specimens are unacceptable for viral culture.)

Flu A+ **but** H1-, H3-, H5-

BOL to telephone BOE.  
**DO NOT PERFORM VIRAL CULTURE.**  
Result reported via MDCH LIMS.  
Specimens sent to CDC for confirmation.

Flu A+ and **H5 +**

BOL to telephone BOE/OPHP.  
Local health department (LHD) and submitter notification by BOE.  
**DO NOT PERFORM VIRAL CULTURE.**  
Result reported via MDCH LIMS.

Specimens sent to CDC for confirmation.

BOL will report CDC result upon receipt.

Viral culture result reported via MDCH LIMS.

BOL will report CDC result upon receipt.

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@ Multiple sample types collected over multiple days are recommended including OP swabs, sputum, bronchial lavage. NP and nasal swabs are acceptable but less productive than other sample types. **DO NOT SUBMIT ONLY SPUTUM.**

Postmortem Specimens:  
Parafin-embedded or formalin-fixed respiratory tissue. Consult MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology at (517) 335-8165 prior to submitting samples.