

Information for Healthcare Providers and Local Health Departments Regarding MDCH Influenza Antiviral Resistance Testing

For the 2011-2012 influenza season, the Michigan Department of Community Health is pleased to announce that the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories (MDCH BOL) will conduct antiviral resistance testing of influenza specimens. In the past, this service was only available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Testing for the Y mutations for oseltamivir resistance at MDCH BOL is currently available for 2009 A/H1N1 and seasonal A/H1N1 influenza specimens. Testing for the V and I mutations of A/H3N2 influenza specimens is expected to be available later this influenza season. No testing is currently available at MDCH BOL for influenza B specimens.

MDCH antiviral resistance testing will be conducted on two types of influenza specimens:

- 1) A subset of representative surveillance specimens from across the state
- 2) Clinical specimens with a high index of suspicion of antiviral resistance or in which clinical treatment would be altered based upon test results

Surveillance Specimens

- Up to 5 specimens of each influenza subtype are expected to be tested weekly
- Specimens will be representatively drawn from submissions to MDCH BOL
- Results for specimens testing positive for a mutation conferring antiviral resistance will be communicated to submitters and local health departments
- If a specimen submitted by your facility tests positive, you may be contacted by MDCH or local health department staff for additional epidemiologic information

Clinical Specimens

- Individual requests for MDCH antiviral resistance testing will be considered by the MDCH Division of Communicable Disease on a case-by-case basis for patients with a positive laboratory test for influenza A
- For testing approval, please call (517) 335-8165 with the following patient information:
 - Demographic information
 - Underlying medical conditions and current medications
 - Influenza vaccination history
 - Course of current illness
 - Influenza laboratory testing results (i.e., specimen collection dates, test type, lab name)
 - Antiviral therapy (i.e., start and end dates, dosage, prophylaxis or treatment)
- Cases approved for MDCH antiviral resistance testing will be given additional specimen submission information upon approval
- Results for specimens testing positive for an antiviral resistance mutation will be communicated to submitters and local health departments; submitters will also receive negative results

Questions? Please call the MDCH Division of Communicable Disease at (517) 335-8165.

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