

**ILINet Enhanced Influenza Surveillance Related to U.S. Novel Influenza A (H3N2) Cases**  
**Michigan Department of Community Health**  
**December 14, 2011**

As described in the *Background Information on Recent Human Cases of Novel Influenza A (H3N2)*, human infections with a novel influenza A (H3N2) virus suggest that limited human-to-human transmission of this virus has occurred. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asked all states to increase influenza testing of influenza-like illness cases to identify additional potential infections with this virus and to evaluate the frequency of human-to-human transmission. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has developed the following guidance for ILINet providers. This interim guidance remains in effect until updates are provided by MDCH.

**Requested Actions for ILINet**

- Specimen submission to the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories from patients with an influenza-like illness (ILI) is highly recommended.
  - ILI is defined as a fever of greater than or equal to 100.1°F with a cough and/or a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.
  - Testing of cases with atypical symptoms, such as vomiting or only the presence of a headache and a fever without respiratory symptoms, may be considered.
- While testing of all ILI cases is encouraged as this point, there is **increased emphasis** on the following populations with ILI:
  - Children under 18 years of age, as most of the confirmed cases have been in young children;
  - Particularly severe or unusual cases including pediatric deaths;
  - Persons who were vaccinated with 2011-12 seasonal flu vaccine but present with influenza-like symptoms;
  - A history of swine (pig) exposure in the two weeks preceding symptom onset;
  - Outbreaks or clusters of ILI cases.
- If your facility performs your own influenza testing, please forward ALL positive influenza specimens, regardless of testing method, to the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories.
  - Specimens from patients with illness highly consistent with influenza but negative by rapid testing methods can be sent to MDCH.
- A shipment of 3 influenza specimen collection kits will be sent next week to all ILINet providers.
  - Instructions on how to submit specimens are available in the kits or online at: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0772Sent\\_2006\\_149260\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/DCH-0772Sent_2006_149260_7.pdf)
  - If you need additional kits or if you have old kits with expired viral transport media, please contact Cristi Carlton at (517) 335-9104.

- Please submit specimens using the ILINet submission forms provided in the specimen collection kits or online at:  
[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/DCH-0583SentR\\_238834\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/DCH-0583SentR_238834_7.pdf)
- Please continue to report your weekly ILI data. We rely heavily on these data.
  - Reports should be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on Tuesdays.
  - As a reminder, the website for reporting is: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/ILINet/>
- Immediately notify the MDCH Division of Communicable Disease at (517) 335-8165 of any suspect novel cases based upon either preliminary laboratory testing results or epidemiologic information. Rapid referral of specimens to MDCH for further testing is essential for timely case identification and characterization of transmission routes.
- Additional information is available for clinical laboratories, hospitals and local health departments. This information will be available online at [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu). CDC updates are available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/media/haveyouheard/>.

Thank you for all that you do for Michigan influenza surveillance efforts!