

Update for Clinicians on the Reporting of Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths for the 2009–2010 Influenza Season
September 18, 2009
Michigan Department of Community Health

Surveillance for All Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

Starting September 1, 2009, the CDC began counting any hospitalizations and deaths related to all influenza viruses for the 2009–2010 influenza season (i.e., numbers reset to zero). The CDC has requested that all states participate in influenza-associated hospitalization and death surveillance, with the goal of tracking both seasonal influenza and 2009 novel influenza A (H1N1) activity within each state. This surveillance is a newly expanded effort in Michigan, as previous surveillance efforts have concentrated on pediatric deaths or deaths associated with novel 2009 influenza A (H1N1). As part of this effort, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will be submitting weekly reports of all laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations and laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths to CDC.

Action Steps for Clinicians

- Report ALL laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths, including both those due to seasonal influenza strains and 2009 novel influenza A (H1N1), as soon as possible to your local health department.
- This reporting begins immediately and will continue throughout the influenza season until further notification.
- Local health department directories can be found online at <http://www.malph.org/page.cfm/18/>.
- As a reminder, only patient groups of public health significance (ICU hospitalizations, severely ill pregnant women, patients with unusual and severe presentations such as encephalopathy, deaths, patients associated with facility outbreaks) are eligible for influenza testing at the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) during the 2009–2010 season.
- Additional clinical laboratories providing diagnostic influenza testing are now available for diagnostic testing of patients who do not meet the above criteria.

Previously distributed guidance and other helpful lab material is located online at www.michigan.gov/mdchlab by clicking on the “Laboratory Novel H1N1 Influenza Page.” Questions regarding influenza reporting can be directed to your local health department or the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology at 517-335-8165. Additional information is available online at www.michigan.gov/flu.