Routine Influenza Algorithm
Michigan Department of Community Health
Instructions for Clinical Labs

NOTE: MDCH performs routine year round surveillance for influenza. Please visit the MDCH website at www.michigan.gov/flu and MIHAN for updates.

Routine Influenza Testing:
Routine surveillance through laboratories and physicians enrolled in Sentinel Surveillance Program. See page 2 of this algorithm if patient meets criteria for testing\(^8\) for novel influenza.\(^8\)

- Collect acceptable specimen * or isolate and ship to MDCH immediately with frozen cold packs.
- Viral respiratory culture performed at MDCH
  - Negative: Result reported via MDCH Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS).
  - Positive:
    - Further viral characterization, i.e., Influenza A subtyping, performed at MDCH. If results indicate novel/avian strain isolate will be sent to CDC.
    - Result reported via MDCH LIMS.

\(^{\ddagger}\) Criteria for novel/avian influenza testing include signs and symptoms suggestive of influenza (fever, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, and radiograph evidence of pneumonia) and travel to an area with confirmed human cases of avian influenza and direct or unprotected exposure to infected birds (including feathers, feces and undercooked meat and egg products). For a current listing of affected areas, go to www.pandemicflu.gov

\(^*\) Acceptable specimens for routine seasonal flu: NP wash, bronchial lavage, NP swab, throat swab.

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

\(^8\) A novel Influenza subtype is one that has not previously been circulating in the human population, resulting in a population that is immunologically naïve to the virus.