



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

October 24, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Each influenza season, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) looks to improve upon influenza reporting and surveillance. In 2006, the addition of new individual influenza forms in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) allowed for improved and more standardized data collection. For the 2007-2008 influenza season, the following updates and recommendations have been added:

Changes to the Reporting of Influenza in MDSS:

1) Individual influenza cases based on single serum specimens

MDSS sometimes receives influenza antibody test results from private laboratories based upon a single serum specimen. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends using only paired acute and convalescent sera for diagnosing influenza.* Upon receiving an individual influenza case based solely on a single serum specimen, the local health department can mark the case as "Not a Case". If a second serum test result for the same patient is reported into MDSS, the system will automatically deduplicate the case. The local health department can then merge the two reports and change the case status to "Confirmed" if a 4-fold rise in serum titers is reported.

2) Weekly Aggregate Influenza Counts

The Aggregate Reports entry page in MDSS has been updated to allow for more detailed and flexible data entry and collection. The tentative release date for this update is November 16, 2007. Please see the attached *Quick Reference Guide to Aggregate Reporting* document for further instructions.

Additional Influenza Materials:

MDCH has developed several new materials regarding influenza that may be of assistance to local health departments and other health agencies. These guidelines are recommendations and are not intended to replace any materials that may have already been developed by local health departments. Hard copies of these documents will be distributed shortly to all local health departments, and additional copies will be available from the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology upon request. We suggest sharing these documents with external stakeholders when appropriate.

- 1) Influenza Outbreak Guidelines for Long-Term Care Facilities*
- 2) Algorithm for Local Health Department Reporting of Influenza*
- 3) Influenza Outbreaks – Suggested Initial Information to Collect*
- 4) Guidance for Medical Examiners and Pathologists Regarding Influenza-Related Pediatric Mortality*



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In addition, the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories Test Requisition Form (Microbiology/Virology Test Requisition Form 0583) used for influenza test submissions is now available online in an Adobe version that is fillable before printing. The direct weblink to this form is http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/DCH-0583_fillable_204160_7.pdf.

Please feel free to contact the MDCH Communicable Disease Division at (517) 335-8165 with any questions or comments regarding any aspect of influenza reporting, testing or surveillance. Thank you for your continued and invaluable efforts in influenza education and surveillance across the state.

Sincerely,

Susan Vagasky, DVM
Influenza Surveillance Epidemiologist

*From the CDC website "Influenza Symptoms and Laboratory Diagnostic Procedures" available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/labprocedures.htm>