

Influenza Testing Algorithm – Updated for Fall 2010

Michigan Department of Community Health

Questions regarding case and outbreak influenza testing should be directed to the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology at (517) 335-8165 during normal business hours or (517) 335-9030 after hours.

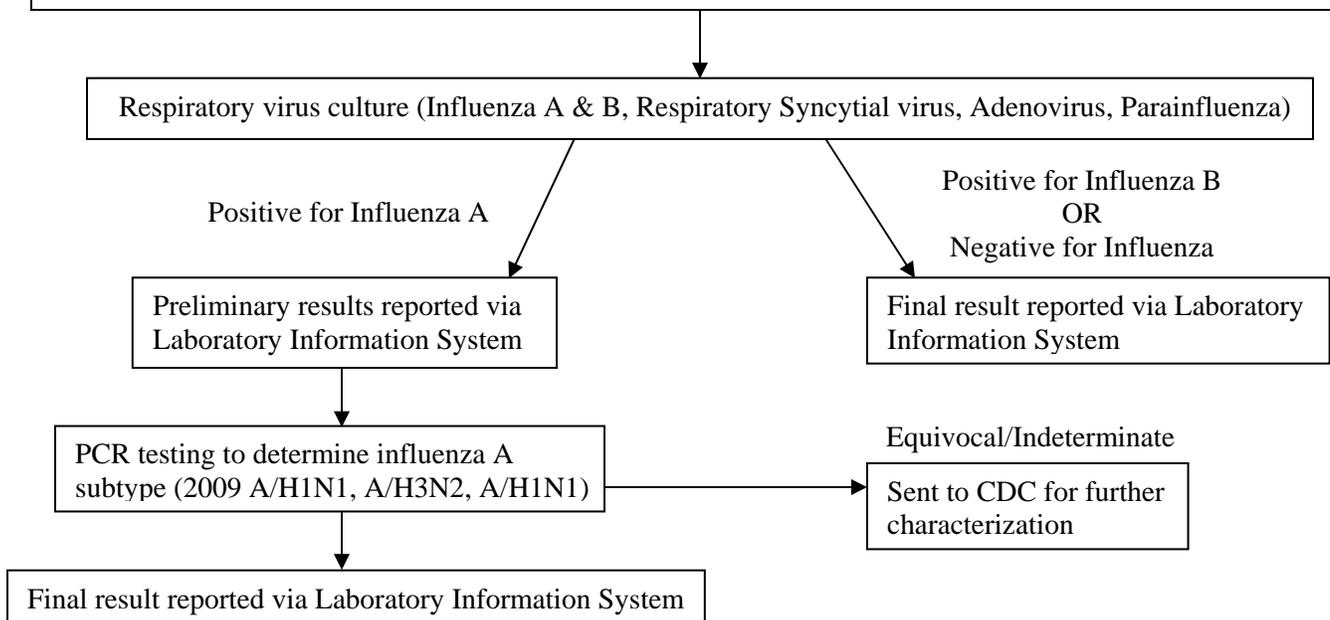
Suspect cases of avian or novel influenza strains (not including 2009 influenza A/H1N1) should be reported immediately to the MDCH Bureau of Epidemiology at the numbers listed above; testing is arranged at that time.

MDCH is encouraging submission of respiratory specimens for influenza and respiratory virus testing for public health surveillance. Specimens can be submitted from any patient type. MDCH continues to highly encourage confirmatory influenza testing for cases of public health interest (**ICU hospitalizations, severely ill pregnant or postpartum women, patients with unusual and severe presentations, and deaths**) and for **congregate setting outbreak investigations**.

See the “Updated Influenza Surveillance, Reporting and Testing Guidance for Healthcare Providers” document from October 2010 for more information on influenza testing and reporting; it is available on the MIHAN and at www.michigan.gov/flu.

Specimen Collection and Submission

- Collect acceptable specimen*:#
- Complete MDCH lab test request form (“Microbiology/Virology DCH-0583”)
 - Available at www.michigan.gov/mdchlab by clicking on “Test Request Forms” link
 - Under “Specimen Information” enter “2350-Viral Respiratory Panel Culture” in the “Other-Specify Test Code/Name” field
- Ship specimen to MDCH Bureau of Labs on frozen cold packs, along with MDCH lab test request form

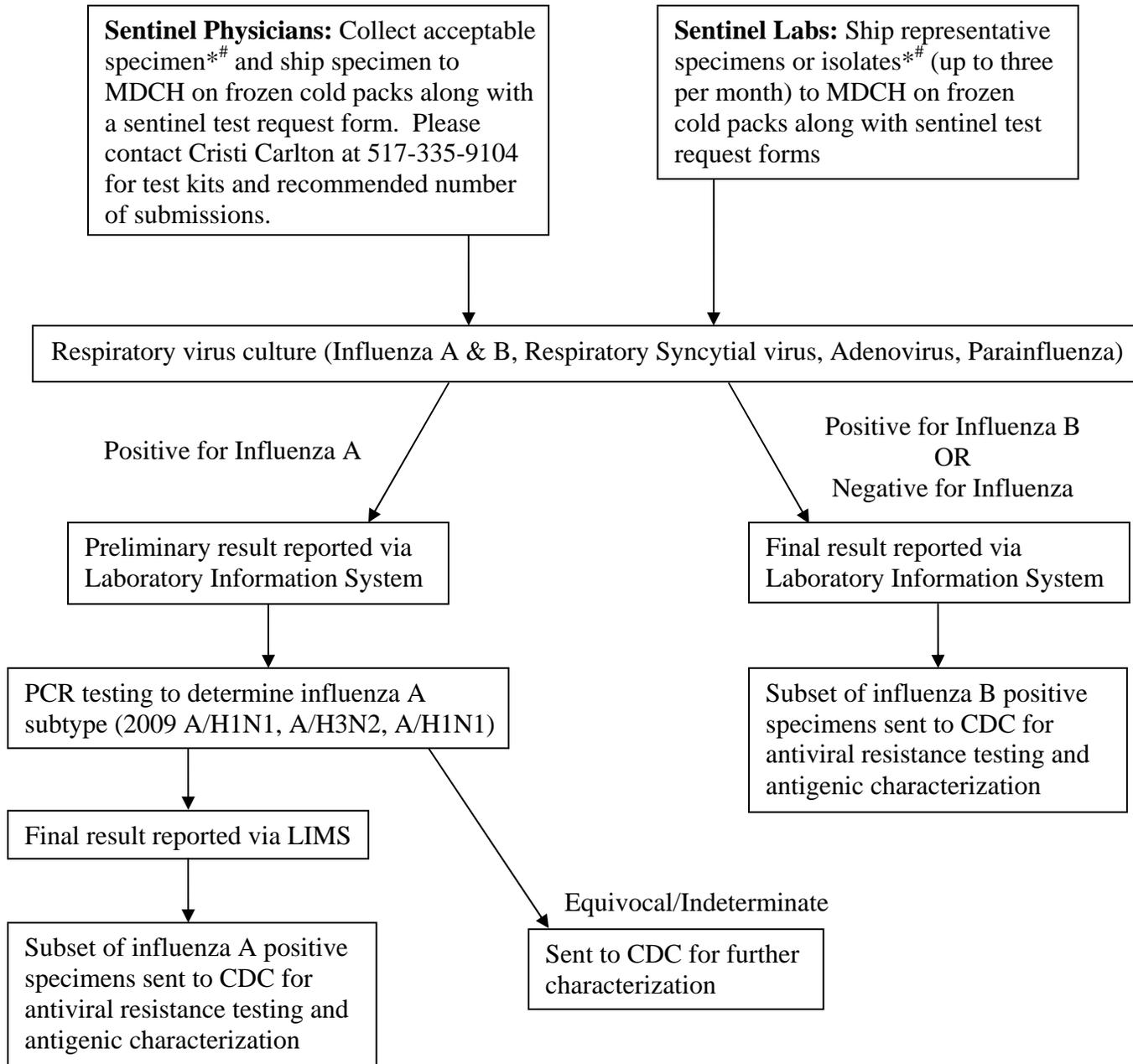


* Acceptable specimens: NP swab in viral transport medium (VTM) or saline (PBS); Nasal swab in VTM or PBS; Dual NP/OP swabs in VTM or PBS; Nasal aspirates; Viral isolates. **DO NOT SUBMIT MULTIPLE SAMPLES ON THE SAME PATIENT** unless by special request or arrangement.

Swabs used in influenza rapid diagnostic tests **cannot** be reused for MDCH testing. Consider collecting two swabs so that one may be reserved for MDCH confirmatory testing if needed. Alternatively, an aliquot of the original specimen may be submitted.

Influenza Testing Algorithm for Sentinel Physicians and Sentinel Laboratories
Updated for Fall 2010
Michigan Department of Community Health

NOTE: If you are unsure whether you are enrolled as a sentinel physician or laboratory, or if you would like to enroll in this program, please consult your local health department or MDCH (517-335-9104 for physicians; 517-335-8165 for labs).



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