Influenza Testing Algorithm for 2018-2019 Influenza Season
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)

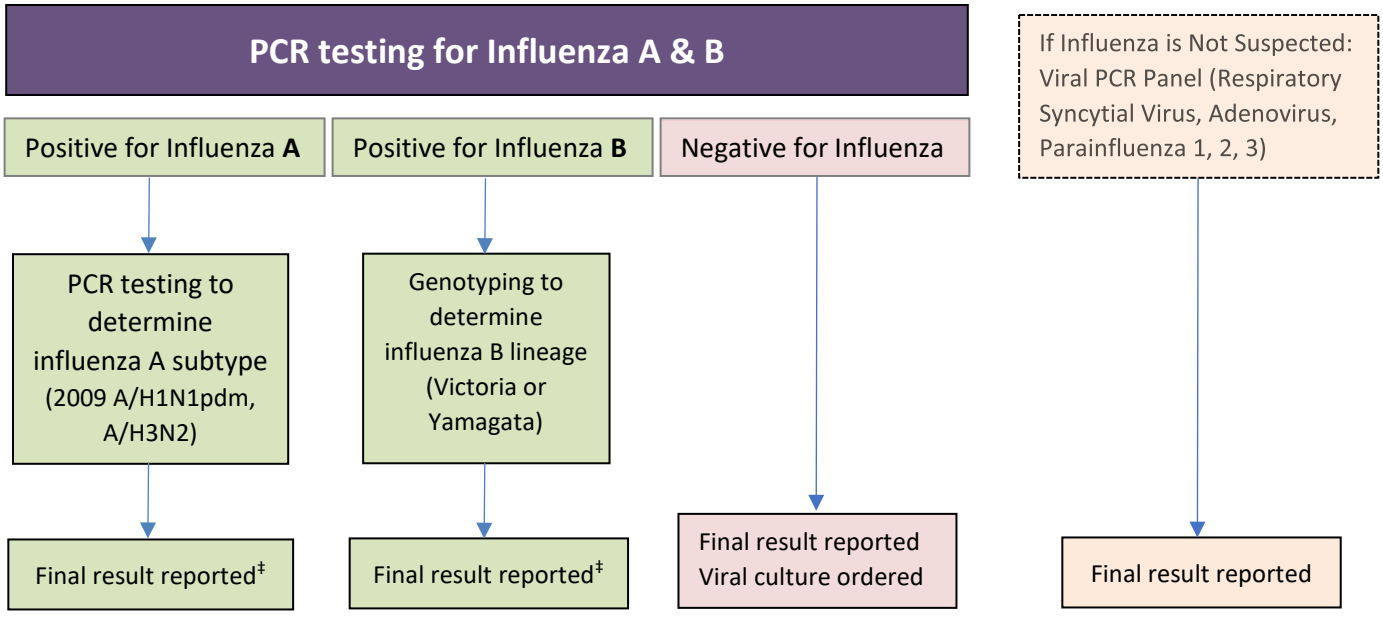
Questions regarding case and outbreak influenza testing should be directed to the MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease at (517) 335-8165 during normal hours or (517)335-9030 after hours

Suspect avian or novel influenza cases (not including 2009 A/H1N1pdm) should be reported immediately to the MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease at the numbers listed above; testing is arranged at that time.

MDHHS encourages periodic submission of representative respiratory specimens for influenza and respiratory virus testing for public health surveillance. Specimens can be from any patient setting. MDHHS highly encourages confirmatory influenza testing and specimen submission for cases of public health interest **(ICU hospitalizations, severely ill pregnant or postpartum women, patients with unusual and severe presentations, deaths)** and from **congregate setting outbreaks.** Please also send **ALL** influenza positive specimens during the summer period. See "MDHHS Influenza Surveillance, Reporting and Testing Guidance" documents for more information on influenza testing and reporting, available on the MIHAN and www.Michigan.gov/flu

Respiratory Specimen Collection and Submission

- Collect acceptable specimen*† Desired volume is 1.0 ml (1ml is needed if additional testing is required, minimum acceptable volume is 0.5 ml)
- Complete MDHHS lab test request form ("Microbiology/Virology DCH-0583")
  - Available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhslab by clicking on "Test Request forms" link
  - In the "Indicate Test Requested" section, fill in the box for "INFLUENZA (PCR/CULTURE)"
- Ship specimen to MDHHS Bureau of Labs on frozen cold packs, along with MDHHS lab test request form. Avoid shipping over a weekend or holiday unless by special arrangement with MDHHS.



* Acceptable specimens: NP swab in viral transport medium (VTM) or saline (PBS); dual NP/OP swabs in VTM or PBS; throat swab in VTM or PBS; nasal aspirates; nasal swab in VTM or PBS; bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial wash, sputum (PCR Only), lung tissue, viral isolates. Do not submit dry swabs for testing. DO **NOT** SUBMIT MULTIPLE SAMPLES ON THE SAME PATIENT unless by special arrangements.

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

‡ If Inconclusive: Sent to CDC for further characterization