

Influenza Testing Algorithm for 2020-2021 Influenza Season

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)

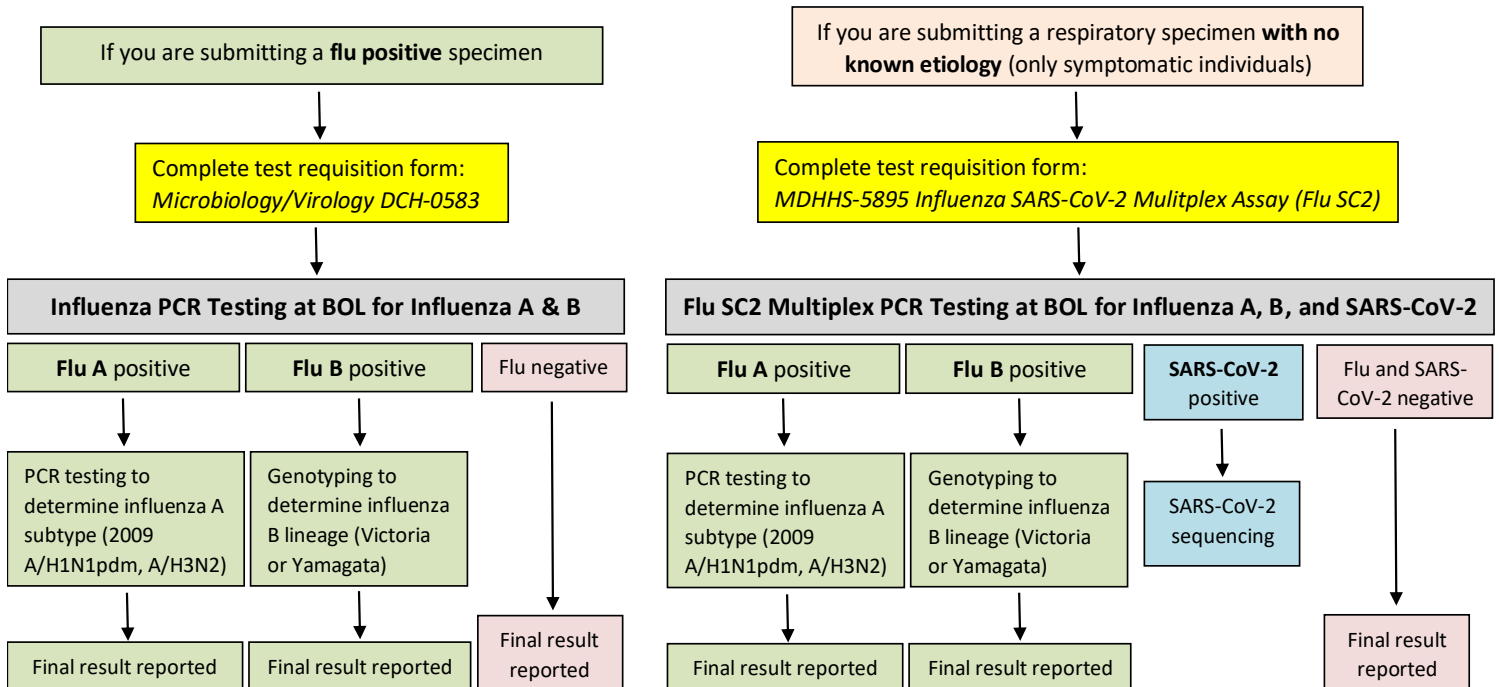
Questions regarding case and outbreak influenza testing should be directed to the MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease at (517) 335-8165 during normal hours or (517) 335-9030 after hours

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 submission of representative influenza-positive specimens (up to 10 per month) for public health surveillance. See [Influenza Surveillance, Reporting and Testing Guidance for Laboratories](#) for more information on influenza testing and reporting.

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)
- For Influenza testing**, complete MDHHS lab test request form *Microbiology/Virology DCH-0583*
 - Available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/lab by clicking on “Test Request forms” link
 - In the “Indicate Test Requested” section, fill in the box for “INFLUENZA (PCR/CULTURE)”
 - Please check the box for either Inpatient, Outpatient or Unknown.
- For Influenza/SARS-CoV-2 testing**, complete MDHHS lab test request form *MDHHS-5895 Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay (Flu SC2)*
 - For use **only** for influenza-like illness (ILI) specimens without a known etiology (e.g. outbreak specimens), MDHHS will perform multiplex PCR testing for Influenza A, B, and SARS-CoV-2.
 - Please check the box for either Inpatient, Outpatient or Unknown.
- Ship specimens 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 influenza result is Inconclusive: Sent to CDC for further characterization