

Influenza Testing Algorithm for 2023-2024 Influenza Season

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)

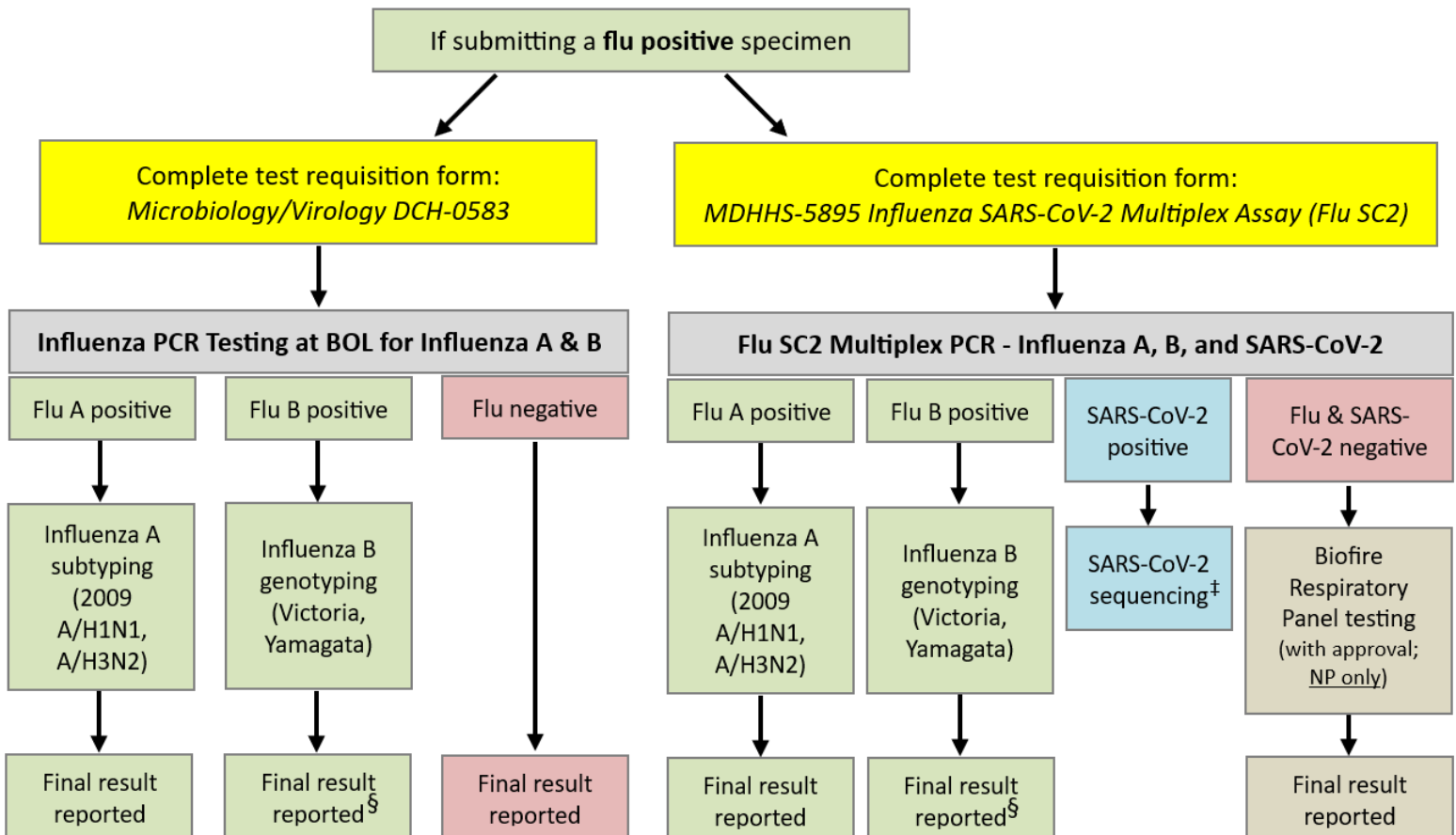
Questions regarding case and outbreak influenza testing should be directed to the MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease at (517) 335-8165 during normal hours or (517) 335-9030 after hours

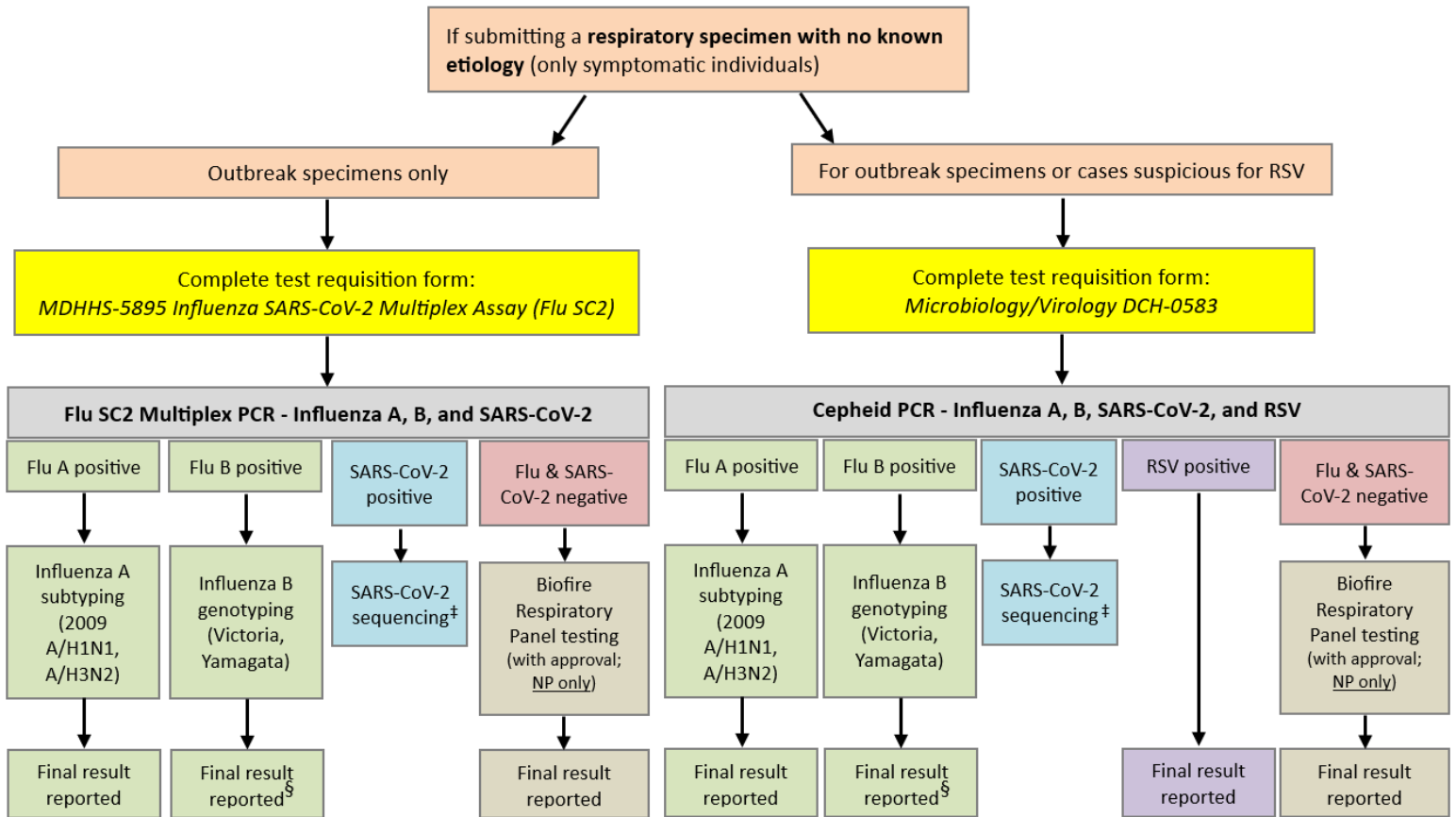
Suspect avian or novel influenza cases (not including 2009 A/H1N1pdm) should be reported immediately to the MDHHS Division of Communicable Disease at the numbers listed above; testing is arranged at that time.

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](#)

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/mdhhslab 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.





Note: Local Health Department Regional Labs across Michigan may also be offering testing on the Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/providers/labservices/regionallabs/regional-laboratory-system>

* Acceptable specimens: NP swab in viral transport medium (VTM) or saline (PBS); OP swabs in VTM or PBS; nasal swab in VTM or PBS; nasal aspirates; nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate; bronchoalveolar lavage; sputum (PCR Only); lower respiratory tract aspirate. 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.

‡ No report for SARS-CoV-2 sequencing results will be reported.

§ No report for influenza B genotyping results will be reported.

If influenza result is Inconclusive: Sent to CDC for further characterization.