

Influenza Testing Algorithm for 2024-2025 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.

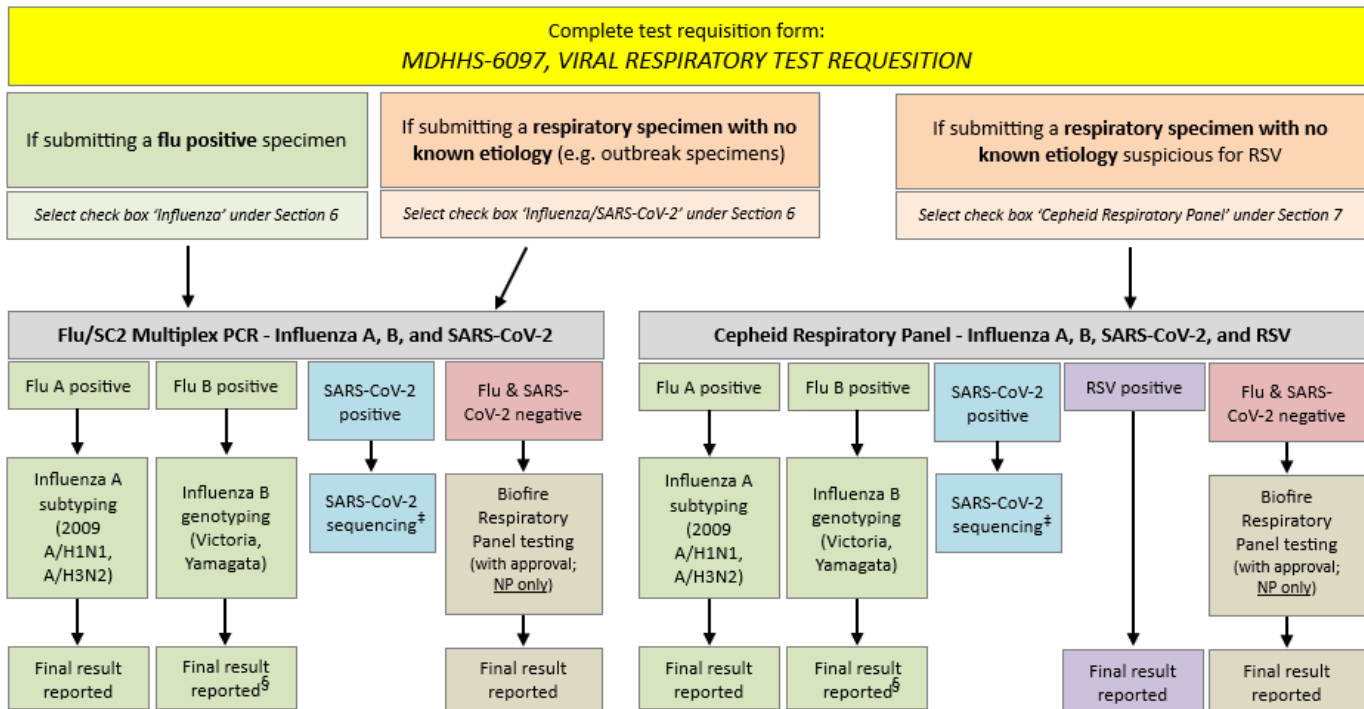
MDHHS encourages submission of representative influenza-positive specimens (up to 10 per month) for public health surveillance. See [Influenza Surveillance, Reporting and Testing Guidance for Laboratories](#)

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)
- Complete form MDHHS-6097, VIRAL RESPIRATORY TEST REQUISITION form found on [test request forms webpage](#)
 - For influenza positive specimens
 - Select check box 'Influenza' under Section 6 – TEST(S) REQUESTED
 - For specimens without a known etiology (e.g. outbreak specimens)
 - Select check box 'Influenza/SARS-CoV-2' under Section 6 – TEST(S) REQUESTED
 - For specimens suspicious for RSV (and in consultation with MDHHS)
 - Select check box 'Cepheid Respiratory Panel' under Section 7 – VIROLOGY – RESPIRATORY TESTS THAT REQUIRE PRIOR MDHHS APPROVAL

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 respiratory testing

*Acceptable specimens: NP swab in viral transport medium (VTM) or universal transport medium (UTM); OP swabs in VTM or UTM; nasal swab in VTM or UTM; 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.