



# Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Board of Health



**August 7, 2009 – Update**

## **Reporting of Influenza A H1N1, Non-Novel Virus**

Dear Healthcare Providers and Infectious Disease Practitioners:

In light of the latest CDC Health Advisory, the Franklin County Board of Health and Columbus Public Health want to update you concerning H1N1 influenza.

### **Reporting**

As of August 5, 2009, the Ohio Department of Health has announced that the H1N1 influenza virus is a non-novel influenza virus. A case of influenza A H1N1 virus should not be reported as “Influenza A, Novel Virus Infection”. Public health surveillance for this virus will now be identical to that done for seasonal influenza viruses. “Influenza-associated pediatric mortality” will remain a Class B (1) reportable disease. “Influenza-associated hospitalizations” will continue to be reported as Class B (2) diseases. Clusters of influenza cases will continue to be reported as Class C outbreaks. The latest ODH Guidance Algorithm for Testing of Influenza Virus describes the recommended process. See reference document link below.

### **Laboratory Testing**

ODH Laboratory will conduct testing for Influenza A H1N1 virus on the following:

- Patients being admitted or currently hospitalized with ILI
- Patients with ILI who are part of a cluster or outbreak being investigated by a local health district or ODH.

For cases meeting the above criteria in City of Columbus and Franklin County, the NP specimens can sent to ODH Laboratory directly without approval from the local health department.

Hospital Infection Control Practitioners must enter the case meeting criteria as “Influenza-associated hospitalizations” into ODRS (Ohio Disease Reporting System). If entry into ODRS cannot be done, the Influenza-Associated Hospitalization Confidential Case Report should be completed and faxed to (614)719-8890. Case report form posted on CDRS website. See reference document link below.

Complete and submit the ODH Virus Isolation Submission form. Write in ‘HOSPITALIZED’ under the tentative diagnosis section. This must be marked/written on the form for ODH laboratory testing. See reference document link below.

Test results will be reported directly to the ordering facility as usual procedure. These changes involving laboratory process should be communicated to your hospital laboratory staff directly by the Infectious Control Practitioners in your facilities. Additionally, CDC recommends that people with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F [37.8°C]), or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

This is a change from the previous recommendation that ill persons stay home for 7 days after illness onset or until 24 hours after the resolution of symptoms, whichever was longer. The new recommendation applies to camps, schools, businesses, mass gatherings, and other community settings where the majority of people are not at increased risk for influenza complications. This guidance does not apply to health care settings where the exclusion period should be continued for 7 days from symptom onset or until the resolution of symptoms, whichever is longer; see CDC infection control guidelines for updates about the health care setting.

Thank you.