

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR INFLUENZA TESTING OF HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS

- The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD) will offer a highly sensitive and specific polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) test for influenza (seasonal and novel H1N1) for all hospitalized patients with possible influenza.
 - The test will be performed free of charge and results will be reported back to submitting laboratories within 3 business days of receipt at SLD
- The New Mexico Department of Health requests that hospitals develop systems to identify all hospitalized patients with possible influenza and assure that these patients have a specimen sent to SLD for influenza PCR testing.
- **Influenza hospitalizations are reportable in New Mexico.** This reporting requirement is specified in New Mexico Administrative code 7.4.3.13, 'Notifiable Diseases or Conditions in New Mexico.'
- All hospitalized patients meeting any of the following criteria are considered by NMDOH to be possible influenza cases and should have a specimen sent to SLD for influenza PCR testing, regardless of whether other influenza testing has been ordered (e.g., a rapid influenza diagnostic test):
 - **Any of the following admitting diagnoses or presenting signs/syndromes:**
 - Influenza or rule-out influenza
 - Influenza-like illness (i.e., fever 100° degrees Fahrenheit or higher, and cough, and/or sore throat)
 - Pneumonia or rule-out pneumonia
 - Bronchiolitis
 - Exacerbation of underlying pulmonary disease (e.g., asthma, cystic fibrosis, COPD)
 - Fever of unknown origin
 - Cough
 - Dyspnea/shortness of breath/respiratory distress
 - CHF, or CHF exacerbation, associated with fever
 - **Any of the following testing/treatment events:**
 - Any influenza test ordered on an inpatient
 - Any influenza antiviral medication/s {e.g., Tamiflu (oseltamavir), Relenza (zanamavir), Symmetrel (amantadine), Flumadine (rimantadine)} ordered for an inpatient
- Hospitals should report to NMDOH twice weekly all hospitalized patients meeting the above criteria for testing. Hospitals should also report if no hospitalized patients meeting the criteria were identified during that week. Reports should be made by 5:00 PM on Mondays and Thursdays to the NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team at 505-827-0006. Reporting should begin on **September 15, 2009** and continue until further notice. The NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team will contact hospitals who do not report by the twice weekly deadlines.
- See overleaf for schematic of process for obtaining influenza testing of hospitalized patients and data elements required for reporting.

HOSPITAL:
Hospitals identify admitted patients for whom influenza testing is indicated (see **bolded** section on reverse side)

HOSPITAL:
Hospital obtains clinical specimen (NP swab in viral culture media) for submission to SLD

HOSPITAL:
Reports case(s) to the NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team twice weekly with **minimum data elements***

HOSPITAL:
Patient sample sent from hospital to SLD (specimen must arrive at SLD within 72 hours of collection in order to be tested) with completed submission form

SLD:
SLD performs PCR and reports result back to hospital and to NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team

Note: Non-hospitalized patient specimens (e.g., emergency department or other outpatients) will **NOT** be tested at SLD. For the specimen to be processed and tested at SLD, you must write "**HOSP**" in the upper left-hand corner of the SLD submission form (see example attached) that must accompany all suspect hospitalized influenza specimens. Non-hospitalized patient specimens requiring influenza confirmation should be sent to a private reference laboratory (e.g., Quest, Tricare).

NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team:
NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team receives information twice weekly from hospital of patients tested. The team calls hospital Infection Preventionist if hospital does not report twice weekly

NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team:
NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team tracks hospitalized suspect influenza patients to assure that specimens are obtained, packaged correctly, and received at SLD within 72 hours

Positive influenza PCR result:
NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team contacts patient's provider/patient to complete brief influenza questionnaire

Negative influenza PCR result: no follow-up

NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team:
De-identified data on hospitalized confirmed influenza cases are reported to CDC and to state stakeholders

- *Minimum data elements** required when reporting suspect cases to NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team are:
- Full name
 - Date of birth
 - Gender
 - County of residence
 - Admission date
 - Admitting diagnosis