

The City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory
***e*Lab Network of metro-Milwaukee**

Re: NEW **FEE-EXEMPT** & **FEE-FOR-SERVICE** NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1) TESTING POLICY for **MHDL**

June 10, 2009

Dear Colleague:

This letter includes guidelines for the use of fee-exempt testing services for the 2009 novel influenza A(H1N1) (“swine flu”) outbreak. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the resources at the City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory (MHDL) and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) are used effectively.

As of June 15, 2009, transport and testing will be provided by the MHDL along with WSLH on a fee-exempt basis **only for specimens collected from patients who have acute febrile respiratory illness AND meet one of the following criteria:**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> Child 2 years of age or less |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident or Staff of Residential or Correctional Facility | <input type="checkbox"/> MHD (Epi) Approval |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Positive Influenza A test result | |

A redesigned WSLH swine surveillance form will be used by MHDL, that lists the criteria for fee exempt testing and is included with this letter. This form is available at the MHDL and WSLH websites. Use of this form is strongly recommended as it will be reviewed for specific criteria when received. If specimens do not specify criteria or do not appear to meet criteria for fee-exempt testing, tests will be run on a fee-for-service basis.

Note: These guidelines refer to fee-exempt testing for cases of public health interest for surveillance purposes, and should not be construed as guidance for clinical management of individual patients.

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE MHD GUIDANCE REGARDING TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS.

‘Fee-for-service’ testing is available for patients who do not meet the criteria listed above. Healthcare facilities/providers and clinical laboratories should inquire with their reference laboratory about test availability. PCR testing for influenza A and B is available at the MHDL on a ‘fee-for-service’ basis and may be available at other laboratories (see enclosed list).

Please note that these guidelines do not affect subtyping of specimens that are positive for influenza A. Fee-exempt subtyping of influenza A positives will still be available at the MHDL and WSLH.

To request ‘fee-for-service’ testing from MHDL, write in “Influenza A/B PCR” on an MHDL requisition (available at 414.286.3526 or website, see below; CPT code for this test is 87798 x 2, and the cost is \$225).

If you have questions, please contact MHDL at 414.286.3526 or visit our web site:
<http://www.milwaukee.gov/SpecialReports3622/MHDLabH1N1SwineFlu2009.htm>

Please see the following list of laboratories that may offer influenza PCR testing.

Wisconsin Laboratories That May Provide Influenza PCR Testing

(The list below may not be all-inclusive and does not imply endorsement.)

- ACL Laboratories, West Allis
 - Contact: (800-877-7016)
- Childrens Hospital of Wisconsin & Midwest Respiratory Virus Program Laboratory
 - Contact: 414-266-2522
- Dynacare Laboratories, Milwaukee
 - Contact: Customer Service (414-805-7600)
- Marshfield Labs, Marshfield
 - Contact: (800-222-5835 or 715-221-6700)
- Meriter Laboratories, Madison
 - Contact: Sue LeMay-Jaeger (608 417-3833 or 1-800-236-0465)
- Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
 - Contact: 608-262-1293 (www.slh.wisc.edu/comdis/swineflu.dot)
- Prodesse Clinical Reference Laboratory, Waukesha
 - Contact: Karen Harrington (262-446-0700, ext.116) or email kharrington@prodesse.com
- ProHealth Laboratories, Waukesha
 - Contact: Lori Dieringer (262-928-7899) or Doug Kiser (262-928-4071)
- Nationally, PCR testing (including subtyping) for novel influenza A(H1N1) virus is available through Quest Laboratories or Focus Diagnostics, California, and may become available at other laboratories.