

May 4, 2009

H1N1 Testing Update

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have reported that human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection continue to spread in the United States (including Ohio) as well as internationally. CompuNet Clinical Laboratories' Virology department is closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation and has been in close contact with the Ohio Department of Health and local public health agencies.

Physicians:

The following is information to guide you should you have a patient exhibiting flu symptoms and you suspect H1N1:

- Specimen should be collected using a nasal swab and Viral Transport Medium collection device. VTM specimen collection devices can be obtained from CompuNet's Supply department. (Due to sudden demand there may be limited availability of testing supplies for initial Influenza A screening. To conserve testing resources for suspected cases of H1N1, clinicians are asked to carefully evaluate patients according to the most current guidance provided by Centers for Disease Control. For more information see CDC website: [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/.](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/))
- Order both Influenza A DFA and Influenza B DFA
 - Influenza A DFA order code: 73472
 - Influenza B DFA order code: 73706
- CompuNet will report positive and negative test results for Influenza A and Influenza B within 24 hours.
 - If the patient tests **POSITIVE for Influenza A DFA**, the physician must contact their local health department.
 - If the patient tests **NEGATIVE for Influenza A DFA**, but the physician strongly suspects the patient displays symptoms of H1N1, the physician should still contact their local health department.
 - The local health department will determine whether or not the patient meets the case definition of a suspected case of H1N1. If the patient meets the case definition, the local health department will contact CompuNet Clinical Laboratories and we will send the patient's specimen to the Ohio Department of Health to be sub-typed for H1N1.

Patients and Physicians:

CompuNet Clinical Laboratories will continue to provide updates as warranted. For more information about H1N1, CompuNet Clinical Laboratories recommends the following websites and hotlines:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov▪ Montgomery County Combined Health: www.chdmc.org▪ Mont. Combined Health Swine Flu Hotline: (937) 225-6217▪ Greene County Combined Health: www.gchd.org | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Clark County Combined Health: www.ccchd.org▪ Warren County: www.co.warren.oh.us/health/▪ Miami County: www.miamicountyhealth.net▪ Ohio Dept. of Health Swine Flu Hotline: 1-866-800-1404 |
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