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Through: Kansas City, Missouri Health Department
KCHD HAN Number: KC 011-09
Date: 05/08/2009
Subject: 2009 H1N1 Influenza Update



**IMPORTANT H1N1 INFLUENZA INFORMATION
MUST BE SHARED WITH ALL MEDICAL STAFF**

At the present time, 10 confirmed and 4 probable cases of 2009 H1N1 Influenza infection have been reported in Missouri. This number is expected to increase as additional clinical specimens are tested. (The most recently updated case count can be seen by going to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services [DHSS] H1N1 Flu website at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/H1N1Flu.html.)

Public health officials are continuing to investigate this disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "many patients who have had novel influenza (H1N1) virus infection, but who are not in a high-risk group have had a self-limited respiratory illness similar to typical seasonal influenza." CDC also indicates that treatment efforts should be directed primarily at persons who are **hospitalized or at higher risk for influenza complications**. Additional information, including recently updated (May 6) treatment recommendations, is available in a CDC guidance document at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>.

CDC has issued a number of other guidance documents on swine influenza (H1N1) for medical providers and public health officials. All of these documents, which are being continually updated, are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN DHSS CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTING SPECIMENS FOR TESTING AT THE MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (MSPHL)

DHSS has been conducting surveillance for 2009 H1N1 influenza cases. As part of this effort, MSPHL has been performing polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing on specimens from patients with suspected 2009 (H1N1) Influenza infection who have met specific criteria described in past Health Updates. Because the epidemiology and characteristics of 2009 H1N1 Influenza are now better understood (and appear to generally be similar to those of seasonal influenza), there is no longer a need for the intense case finding of the past two weeks. For this reason, and in order to make the best use of available laboratory resources, **DHSS has changed the criteria that it will use in making decisions on which specimens to accept for testing at MSPHL.**

At the present time, the following are the only specimens that will be tested:

- 1. Persons with an acute febrile respiratory illness who are, or will immediately be, hospitalized.** Acute febrile respiratory illness is defined as a measured temperature >100 F and recent onset of at least one of the following: rhinorrhea or nasal congestion, sore throat, or cough.
- 2. Persons who are part of an outbreak investigation being conducted by DHSS and/or local public health agency (LPHA) staff.**

No specimen can be sent to MSPHL for testing without first consulting with DHSS staff (800-392-0272). For DHSS-approved sentinel surveillance providers, consultation with DHSS prior to sending specimens is not required.

SPECIAL SUNDAY LABORATORY COURIER PICK-UP MAY 10, 2009

In order to facilitate timely laboratory testing of approved specimens from persons suspected of being infected with swine influenza virus, MSPHL is implementing a Sunday courier pick-up at geographically-located hospitals across the state for May 10, 2009, for overnight delivery. This service is intended to provide a drop site for DHSS-approved (see preceding section) clinical specimens that are to be sent to MSPHL for analysis.

Only properly packaged specimens will be accepted. All specimens must arrive at the designated hospital location prior to 12:00 p.m. on May 10, 2009, for this service to be utilized. The hospital in the KC Metro area that has agreed to partner with MSPHL to provide this service is listed below.

FACILITY	COUNTY	DESIGNATED LOCATION
St. Luke's Hospital KC 4401 Wornall Road Kansas City	Jackson County	Reference Laboratory

All known or suspected cases of H1N1 (Swine) Influenza should be immediately reported to the Kansas City, MO Health Department (816-513-6152) or the Local Public Health Department in your jurisdiction. Medical providers should also immediately report observed clusters or outbreaks of febrile influenza-like illness to the local public health agency (LPHA) in their area.

Information and recommendations contained in this update are subject to change as additional epidemiological and clinical data become available. Current information on H1N1 flu influenza is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>