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Through: Kansas City, Missouri Health Department
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Subject: Important Changes Related to Novel Influenza A H1N1
Testing Performed by the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory



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Information taken from DHSS Health Update #6 (06/09/2009)

This Health Alert communication is to inform you that the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), in collaboration with the CDC, has decided to stop requesting information on individual Novel Influenza A (H1N1) cases, including those in special groups, such as pregnant women, health care workers, or hospitalized persons. DHSS will return to a testing protocol that is consistent with seasonal influenza practices and will no longer be accepting routine specimens for Novel H1N1 testing.

Novel H1N1 PCR testing will be performed only under the following circumstances:

1. The specimen is submitted by a Sentinel Provider; and
2. Those specimens submitted for epidemiological investigation purposes (e.g., as identification of a respiratory disease that hasn't been diagnosed and is part of an outbreak being investigated by the state or local health departments).

The Sentinel Providers will be returning to traditional testing for the off-season. The expectation is for us to receive a total of 3 specimens from each provider for the period June – October 1, 2009 and for the sentinel providers to submit their weekly office data to the national sentinel provider data base.

In situations other than those listed in 1 and 2, health care providers who wish individual patient testing can do so through commercial laboratories.

The MSPHL will routinely batch and test influenza specimens every Thursday except in outbreak situations.

All medical providers should immediately report any observed clusters or outbreaks of febrile influenza-like illness to the Kansas City, MO Health Department (816-513-6152) or to the Local Public Health Agency in their area.

More information for Missouri medical providers is available on the DHSS Swine Influenza website, at: http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/MedProfs.html.