



Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

An Office of the Department of Health and Human Services

Department of Health and Human Services
 Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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John E. Baldacci, Governor

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Influenza Laboratory Submission Information Sheet	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	Influenza-associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza-like illness, and Novel Influenza A are reportable immediately
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens from cases of Novel Influenza A
Required Information: 1. Effective Aug 1, 2009: ALL INFLUENZA SPECIMENS SUBMITTED TO HETL MUST INCLUDE A COMPLETED Influenza Virus Specimen Submission Form	Influenza Virus Specimen Submission Form available at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/micro/download_forms.htm
2. HETL Requisition Form : Patient name written on requisition and patient name on specimen itself must match.	Requisition form available at: http://mainegov-images.informe.org/dhhs/etl/micro/clinical_requisition.pdf
Specimen Requirements:	Preferred: 1) Nasopharyngeal swab, 2) Throat swab, 3) Nasal wash Other Acceptable specimens: 4) Lower respiratory specimens (bronchial wash), 5) Nasal aspirate, 6) Sputum
Collection Instructions:	Request Influenza Collection Kit from HETL Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media provided in the kit. Do not use wooden swabs or calcium alginate swabs. ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.
Specimen Handling and Transport:	Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. For faster turn around time to obtain results, consider hand delivery to HETL. Use wet ice or cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery. Freezing specimens for direct detection (PCR) is not optimal. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B
Turn Around Time:	PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival. Cultures will not performed on suspected swine flu cases. Samples may be sent to CDC for further testing.
<i>MeCDC Epidemiologists only</i>	<i>Contact HETL for outbreak kits @ 287-2727</i>
Unacceptable Conditions:	Specimens received without a form and clinical details, with insufficient material to analyze (less than 0.5ml), collected with wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs. Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results Include:	No Influenza A RNA Found , Influenza A/H3, Influenza A/H1, Swine-like influenza A/H1 DETECTED, Equivocal for Swine-like influenza A/H1 or Influenza A/Unable to Subtype. Note: <i>Equivocal and Unable to Subtype specimens are sent to CDC Atlanta for confirmation</i>
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	As of 5/1/2009 the testing fee for INFLUENZA PCR has been waived. Important: Submitters with high priority specimens should contact MeCDC at 1-800-821-5821 for expedited testing.
Applicable CPT Codes:	CURRENTLY FEE WAIVED CPT CODES ARE N/A
Additional Information:	For Influenza specific questions contact Maine HETL - Virology at 207-287-1722