



Department of Health and Human Services
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2013-2014 Influenza Season Conference Call Meeting Minutes

9/25/2013

Present: Dr. Sears, Sara Robinson, Lori Webber, Ann Farmer, Bill Jenkins, Nate Riethmann, Joe Legee, Jane Coolidge, (Amanda O'Leary-note taker)

This call was to provide updates for the season, outline resources available, and remind facilities what the requirements are for the influenza season.

- Start of Influenza Season is Sunday, September 30th. The first report will come out on October 15th, reports will come out every Tuesday after.
- Talking Points and FAQs – will be available online at www.maine flu.gov
- The conference call was recorded and is available online, at the following link <http://www2.teleconferencingcenter.com/moderator/presentation/Playback?id=e97ed39c-23e2-4bbd-9e95-5218d86daea7.rpm> This recording is only available until 10/25/2013.
- Questions/Answers:
 - Should individual medical practices be reporting as well as the hospitals? **Yes, all healthcare facilities regardless of size should be reporting.**
 - In regards to sending samples to lab, do rapid negative samples need to be sent to CDC still? **the Health and Environmental Testing Lab is recommending that all healthcare partners follow-up on any negative results on hospitalized patients with no other known etiology**
 - What should hospitals, health centers, etc do with SNS supplies of PPE that are currently at the hospital? Can they be rotated in with facility inventory? Concern with supplies taking up needed space. **Anyone with questions specifically about PPE, masks, etc should contact Joe Legee at joe.legee@maine.gov.**
 - When reporting what type of information does CDC / HETL want as far as indicators on positive cultures? This could be a compliance issue. **For all cases, Maine CDC will want to know age of patient and geographic location for surveillance purposes. If a facility does not feel secure in giving the information, that is fine as it is not required only recommended.**