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## Influenza Detection by Real Time RT PCR

### Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes: Influenza associated pediatric deaths, outbreaks of influenza like illness, and Novel Influenza A are reportable conditions. If you have not already done so, please report suspected or confirmed cases to Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-5821 (24 hours/ 7 days/week).</li></ul>
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clinical laboratories are required to submit specimens from cases suspected or identified as being novel influenza or influenza positives that are not able to be subtyped</li><li>• ME-CDC recommends each facility sends their first ten Influenza positives specimens for confirmation</li></ul>
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.</li><li>• <b>Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.</b></li></ul>
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preferred: Nasopharyngeal swab, Throat swab, Nasal wash</li><li>• Other Acceptable specimens: Lower respiratory specimens (bronchial wash), Nasal aspirate, Sputum</li><li>• ONLY synthetic-tipped swabs (Polyester, Rayon, Dacron) with plastic shafts should be used.</li></ul>
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Request Influenza Collection Kit from HETL</li><li>• Specimens should be submitted in viral transport media provided in the kit.</li><li>• Store specimens at 2-8°C until ready for shipping. Specimens should be submitted to lab as soon as possible. Use wet ice or cold packs to maintain 2-8°C during delivery.</li></ul>
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PCR results are generally available within 24 hours after arrival at HETL. Samples may be sent to CDC for further testing. Submitters with high priority specimens should contact MeCDC at 1-800-821-5821 for expedited testing.</li></ul>
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze.</li><li>• Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested.</li><li>• Do not use wooden shaft or calcium alginate swabs</li><li>• do not freeze specimens for PCR testing</li></ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Influenza RNA Found, Influenza A/H3, Influenza A/H1, Influenza 2009 A/H1, Influenza B RNA DETECTED or Equivocal, or INCONCLUSIVE or INFLUENZA A; UNABLE TO SUBTYPE. Positive influenza A H1 and H3 samples are reflexed to antiviral resistance testing by Pyrosequencing.</li><li>• All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.</li></ul>
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No fee for Influenza PCR</li></ul>
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 87502 and 87503 (PCR)</li></ul>
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704, Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, and Serology at 207-287-1722</li><li>• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769</li><li>• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706</li><li>• CT/GC at 207-287-6244</li></ul>