



## Indiana State Department of Health

### **MODIFIED LAB SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (Effective Friday, July 10, 2009):**

The ISDH is modifying its surveillance guidelines to conduct more effective and efficient case investigation and laboratory testing of the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus. National and statewide surveillance data now demonstrate that the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus is the predominant circulating influenza strain, and infections caused by the H1N1 virus remain mild and widespread. Several states are focusing now on utilizing their pre-existing outpatient influenza sentinel surveillance systems in an effort to conserve resources and begin planning for the fall influenza season.

**Beginning Friday, July 10, viral specimen submission to the ISDH Laboratory to rule out infection with the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus strain will be limited to:**

- 1) The 30 pre-established sentinel health care providers who participate in Indiana's Influenza Sentinel Physicians Surveillance Network. Sentinel health care providers are encouraged to continue to submit specimens on patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI), which is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100 degrees F with cough or sore throat.**
- 2) Any death associated with ILI.**

Specimens that were submitted on or prior to Friday, July 10 will still be tested by the ISDH Laboratory.

In addition, the ISDH Surveillance and Investigation Division will only conduct case investigations on individual influenza cases resulting in a death or cases related to outbreaks. Media updates including county-specific case counts will no longer be issued.

In this manner, the ISDH will continue to characterize the virus and describe any laboratory or clinical changes in its presentation. The ISDH will communicate findings from this new surveillance strategy to all health care providers throughout the state in a timely fashion.

#### **Epidemiology and Surveillance**

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## **SPECIMEN COLLECTION:**

1. Insert a nasopharyngeal swab with flexible shaft through nostril to posterior nasopharynx. (Do not use wooden shaft swabs. Dacron, rayon, or flocked swabs give optimal results.)
2. Place swab in viral transport medium. If you cannot obtain viral transport medium, you may use other transport media but sensitivity may be compromised.
3. If necessary, break or cut shaft to allow the transport tube to be completely sealed.
4. NP aspirates in viral transport medium are also excellent specimens.
5. Label each tube with the patient's name and the collection date.
6. When submitting specimens from **deceased patients** with ILI as a cause of death, the specimen should be from a tracheal wash or swab that is placed in an appropriate transport medium.
7. Specimens should be placed at refrigerator temperature immediately after collection and transported with cold packs.
8. Complete an Influenza Lab Submission form for each specimen (form is included here and can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/icpr/webfile/formsdiv/35212.pdf>). Make sure your clinic or laboratory address is complete and provides the fax number where you want the report to be faxed.
9. If unable to ship the same day, refrigerate the specimens.
10. Transport the specimens on cold packs with Overnight Delivery. Holding the specimens longer than 24 hours will decrease the chance for influenza isolation.
11. Failure to fill out the form completely may result in sample rejection.

## **PACKING AND SHIPPING:**

1. Wrap the specimen(s) in an absorbent pad and secure all specimens in a Ziploc-type bag.
2. Place the completed Influenza Lab Submission form(s) in the liner of the bag and enclose with the frozen cold pack in a Styrofoam container.
3. Place the Styrofoam container into the cardboard box and secure the box with packaging tape.
4. Address to:
  1. Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory
  2. Attn: Virology Laboratory
  3. 550 W. 16th Street, Suite B
  4. Indianapolis, IN 46202
5. Attach your **return address** label; include the **name and telephone number** of the person who knows the content of the package (requirement) with the return address.
6. Specimens should be shipped so they arrive at the ISDH Lab during business hours, Monday – Friday.

**ISDH Lab now has an electronic lab specimen submission system which allows your facility to enter specimen data online rather than on a paper form. This system will allow your facility to see and print results in real-time, save time on submission, and reduce errors. If your facility is interested in submitting samples through LimsNet please call our LIMS Help Desk at 317-921-5506, or 888-535-0011, or email us at [LimsAppSupport@isdh.in.gov](mailto:LimsAppSupport@isdh.in.gov).**



**VIROLOGY**

State Form State Form 35212 (R5/7-08)

**Section 4. Travel History**

Travel history for the past 60 days:

Traveled to/from: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Departure

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Return

**Section 5. Virus Suspected**

- Adenovirus
- Enterovirus
- Herpes Simplex
- Influenza
- Measles
- Mumps
- Norovirus
- Parainfluenza
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Varicella
- Community-Acquired Pneumonia
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 6. Submitter Information**

Healthcare Provider's Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number Fax Number

Submitting Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number & Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State ZIP Code

\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number Fax Number

Collect specimen for virus culture and PCR testing as early as possible in the acute stage of illness. Acceptable specimens may include the following: isolates, NP swabs or throat swabs, stools or rectal swabs, body fluids, lesion swabs or scrapings, biopsy tissue (no preservative), and postmortem tissues (no preservative) depending on the suspected virus. Swabs must be placed in 2-3 mL of viral transport media such as M4, M4-RT, M5 UTM-RT, etc. Use a 7A container, available from the ISDH Container Section, for Norovirus specimens.

Refrigerate specimens for virus culture and PCR testing immediately after collection at 2-8° C. Wrap the labeled specimen container with absorbent material and place in a biohazard specimen bag to prevent breakage or spillage during shipment. Ship specimens within 24 hours in a heavily insulated box with sufficient ice packs to maintain 2-8° C while in transit. Pack specimens to prevent breakage or spillage. Ship the box compliant with DOT and IATA regulations.

Viral recovery may be complicated if specimens are not shipped refrigerated immediately after collection. If shipment and delivery to the ISDH laboratories is not possible within 24 hours after collection, specimens must be frozen at -70° C or below. Do not store at -20° C. Ship frozen specimens on 10 lb. dry ice in a heavily insulated box. Do not ship on Friday, hold in freezer for Monday shipping.

Specimens should be received by the ISDH Laboratory within 5 days of collection.

**For ISDH Lab. Use ONLY**

**Place Label here**

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received