

ODH Guidance Algorithm for Testing of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza A Effective September 8, 2009

(Adapted from CDC Recommendations – Guidance Subject to Change)

Ohio testing goals: To confirm severe cases and clusters of H1N1

ODH will perform confirmation testing on:

1. Individuals hospitalized with ILI^{1,2,3} **or**
2. Individuals in a cluster of ILI cases investigated by a local health district and ODH

Individuals hospitalized with ILI^{1,2,3}



Obtain any of the following: nasopharyngeal swab (*preferred*); nasal aspirate; nasal swab plus throat swab; or nasal wash⁴

- Place swab or material in viral transport media
- Store in refrigerator while awaiting transport (do not freeze)
- The testing facility writes “Hospitalized” on ODH lab slip and forwards the sample to the ODH lab (the health department does not need to be notified to gain permission to submit to the ODH lab)
- Hospitalized cases must be reported by the end of the work week - Class B(2) reporting requirements for hospitalized cases
- Hospitalized ILI cases are reported in ODRS as influenza-associated hospitalizations
- ODH Lab will notify the sending facility of the results

Individuals in a cluster of ILI cases investigated by a local health district and ODH



Obtain any of the following: nasopharyngeal swab (*preferred*); nasal aspirate; nasal swab plus throat swab; or nasal wash⁴

- Place swab or material in viral transport media
- Store in refrigerator while awaiting transport (do not freeze)
- The facility or clinician notifies the local health department of the cluster no later than the following business day
- Local health department calls ODH Immunization to approve testing of samples from clusters; if approved by ODH, the testing facility writes “H1N1 Cluster Investigation” on the lab slip and sends the sample to ODH lab for H1N1 testing
- Local health department enters suspect outbreak into ODRS - Class C reporting requirements
- ODH lab will notify the sending facility and the local health department of the results

ODH Laboratory Shipping Instructions:

- For nasopharyngeal swabs, use only sterile dacron or rayon swabs with plastic shafts.
- Place the swabs immediately into sterile vials containing 2 ml of viral transport media. Break the applicator sticks off near the tip to permit tightening of the cap.
- Specimens should be sent by priority overnight shipping on ice packs for receipt within 24 hours. Samples must be kept cold for the duration of the shipment.
- When sending clinical specimens, include the ODH viral isolation sheet and write either “Hospitalized H1N1” or “H1N1 Cluster Investigation”.
- All shipments must comply with current DOT/IATA shipping regulations and protocols.
- For delivery of packages using DHL, UPS, US Cargo and other carriers, ship specimens to Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, 8995 E. Main Street, Building 22, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068.

1. Reports of confirmed pandemic influenza A H1N1 symptoms have included: fever, cough, sore throat, watery eyes, vomiting, body aches. As with seasonal influenza, infants, adults ≥ 65 years of age and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.
2. Information on caring for patients can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance>.
3. H1N1 testing by the ODH lab is for public health surveillance purposes. It is not intended to be used to rule-out multiple possible diagnoses. Samples should only be submitted if the physician believes the individual has H1N1. Other private laboratories may be able to perform RT-PCR testing for diagnostic purposes.
4. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for identifying H1N1 (swine flu) virus. For information on rapid antigen testing see: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/rapid_testing.htm.

Note: Enhanced outpatient ILI surveillance will be conducted via routine laboratory submissions from providers participating in the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet).

Last updated by ODH on 9/8/09.