



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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DATE: April 18, 2013
TO: Wisconsin Local, Tribal and Regional Public Health Officials
Infection Preventionists, Healthcare Providers
FROM: Jeffrey P. Davis M.D.
Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases and
Emergency Response
RE: **Guidelines for enhanced surveillance and testing for novel avian
influenza A/H7N9 virus in Wisconsin**

***** Please distribute widely *****

The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to report increases in the number of cases of the novel influenza A (H7N9) virus infections in several provinces in China. Investigations regarding the possible sources of infection and reservoirs of the virus are ongoing. Until the source of infection has been identified, it is expected that there will be additional cases of human infection and illness caused by this novel virus in China. While concerns regarding human-to-human transmission of this virus has been raised, to date there is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission.

Interim guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and updates from the WHO can be found at <http://www.flu.wisconsin.gov/>

Attached are interim guidelines for testing of suspect avian influenza cases in Wisconsin. **With prior approval from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH)**, specimens from ill patients that meet the criteria for suspect influenza A (H7N9) will be transported to and tested at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) by PCR at no charge. Testing is a priority and should be arranged without delay when a case is suspected. Specimens must be received at the WSLH **within 24 hours of collection**. If assistance is needed to arrange prompt delivery, call the WSLH emergency number at 608-263-3280.

Once specimens are received at the WSLH, PCR testing is usually completed within 24 hours (if appropriate notification is provided). Local health officials will be notified by the DPH of test results as soon as they are available. The WSLH will report results directly to the submitter.

If you have any questions please contact:

Epidemiology and Surveillance:
Thomas Haupt M.S.
Wisconsin Division of Public Health
608-266-5326

Laboratory Issues:
CDD Customer Service
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
608-262-6386

Guidelines to Identify Suspect Cases of Illness Caused by a Novel Avian Influenza A Virus
April 18, 2013

The Wisconsin Division of Public (DPH) and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) are requesting that health care providers collect specimens from any patient who meets both of the following criteria:

The patient presents with illness compatible with influenza that includes at least 2 of the following signs or symptoms: Fever, cough, sore throat, rhinorrhea or myalgia

1. A patient with compatible illness must also meet either of the following exposure criteria:

- Has had recent contact (within 10 days of illness onset) with an individual who has a confirmed or probable novel influenza A (H7N9) virus infection, OR
- Has had recent travel (within 10 days of illness onset) to a country where human cases of novel influenza A (H7N9) virus infection have recently been detected or where novel influenza A (H7N9) viruses are known to be circulating among birds or animals.
 - Currently, influenza A (H7N9) virus circulation has been confined to China. Specimens from patient with travel to other areas may be considered on an individual basis.

Specimen collection from patients who meet the above criteria should include:

One oropharyngeal (throat) swab AND one nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in the same vial of viral transport medium (VTM)

- Swabs used for specimen collection should have a polyester (e.g. Dacron) tip and aluminum or plastic shaft
- Do not use calcium alginate swabs, cotton swabs and wooden-shaft swabs, as they may interfere with testing. Specimens should be stored at 4°C (40° F) immediately after collection and transported to the WSLH with a kool-pak® to maintain refrigerator temperature.

PROMPT SHIPPING OF SPECIMENS IS NECESSARY!!

**PLEASE CONTACT THE WISCONSIN DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR
APPROVAL BEFORE SPECIMENS ARE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE
LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

During office hours (7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday-Friday) call 608-266-5326.
After hours call 608-258-0099 and ask for the Communicable Disease Epidemiologist “on-call”

SPECIMENS SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE WITHIN 24 HOURS. If submitters need assistance to arrange prompt delivery of specimens, they should call the WSLH emergency number at 608-263-3280. Please be aware that only specimens sent with this completed requisition form will be tested for avian influenza.

**SHIPMENT OF VIRAL SURVEILLANCE SPECIMENS VIA DUNHAM EXPRESS
TO THE WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

Specimen Packaging (WSLH Kit # 18 or equivalent):

- **Triple package as “Biological substance, Category B / UN 3373”**
- Securely tape the cap of the specimen container, wrap specimen with absorbent material; place the specimen vial into a biohazard bag; place the completed requisition form into the outer pocket of the bag.
- Place the bagged specimen and form in the styrofoam mailer with a frozen kool-pak and cushioning.
- Replace lid on the styrofoam/cardboard box; close and securely tape the cardboard box shut.
- Attach the WSLH address label to the package:

State Lab - Virology

465 Henry Mall

Madison, WI 53706

- Attach the “*Biological substance, Category B / UN 3373*” label to the package.
- Attach your *return address* label
 - Include the *name and telephone number* of the person who knows the content of the package (**required**) with the return address

Shipping Arrangements:

- The WSLH has a contract with Dunham Express for shipment of specimens to the WSLH, with charges billed to the WSLH. **You are not required to ship via Dunham Express unless you wish to have the transport charges billed to the WSLH.**
- Specimens will be picked up during regular working hours, but you must confirm the time with the Dunham Express office in your area.
- Specimens will be delivered to the WSLH the following day, except Friday pick-ups. **If you must ship on Fridays or on the day before a holiday, please include an extra kool-pak® .**
- All package preparation should be completed before the courier arrives.
- Contact the Dunham Express office in your area (see list below);

Appleton area: Call 920-722-6360

Duluth, MN area: Call 218-727-3755

Eau Claire area: Call 715-874-4595

LaCrosse area: Call 608-779-4588

Madison area: Call 608-242-1000

Milwaukee area: Call 414-435-0002

Niagara area: Call 715-251-1909

Wausau area: Call 715-355-0400

- Give the office the following information:

The State Lab-Virology account number: 7274

Account name: State Lab - Virology

Your name and phone number

Your pickup address, including other location information (e.g., room number)

The destination: State Lab - Virology, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706

Shipment description, if asked: Viral specimens for overnight delivery

NOTE: THIS ACCOUNT IS FOR INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SPECIMENS ONLY. Funding is not available for transport of other samples. Transport charges may be billed to the user if these account numbers are used for samples other than influenza surveillance.

REQUESTS FOR SPECIAL PICK-UP OR DELIVERY MUST BE APPROVED BY WSLH.

Patient Information		Submitter Information	
Name (Last, First):		(Your Institution's Agency Number If Known)	
Address:		(Your Institution's Name)	
City:	State:	Zip:	(Your Institution's Address)
Date of Birth:	Gender: M F	(City, State, Zip Code)	
Occupation:		(Telephone Number)	
Your Patient ID Number (optional):		Health Care Provider Full Name:	
Your Specimen ID Number (optional):		WSLH Use Only Study: VI SURV-ENHANCED	WSLH Use Only: Bill To: (WSLH Account # 74201)

Reason for submission:

Outbreak Investigation (name & location) _____

Swine Contact

Avian Influenza Surveillance

Other _____

Date Collected: _____ **Specimen Type:** Other _____

Combined Throat/Nasopharynx Swab Nasopharynx Swab (in VTM) Throat Swab (in VTM)

Date of Onset: _____

General Symptoms	Respiratory Symptoms	Digestive Symptoms
<input type="checkbox"/> Anorexia	<input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis	<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea
<input type="checkbox"/> Arthralgia	<input type="checkbox"/> Ear Pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea / Vomiting
<input type="checkbox"/> Fever	<input type="checkbox"/> Nasal Congestion	CNS
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache	<input type="checkbox"/> Nasal Discharge	<input type="checkbox"/> Encephalopathy
<input type="checkbox"/> Lymphadenopathy	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharyngitis	<input type="checkbox"/> Delirium
<input type="checkbox"/> Malaise	<input type="checkbox"/> Hoarseness	<input type="checkbox"/> Meningismus
<input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia	<input type="checkbox"/> Cough (<i>circle one</i>) <u>productive / nonproductive / barking</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photophobia	<input type="checkbox"/> Crackles	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rash	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyspnea	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mouth Lesions	<input type="checkbox"/> Wheeze	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pneumonia	

Vaccination History (Influenza): Was patient vaccinated? Yes No Unknown

If Yes, Date Vaccinated: / /

Travel History (Places and dates): _____

Was patient hospitalized? Yes No Unknown

If Yes, where: _____

WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE USE ONLY

WSLH Test Code: To Be Determined On Receipt