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IDPH Laboratory Supports Influenza Outbreak Investigations in Health Care Facilities

ATTN: Long-Term Care Facilities
Correctional Facilities
Local Health Departments
Federally Qualified Health Centers

Facilities experiencing influenza outbreaks, after primary diagnostic testing of symptomatic patients is performed by a laboratory provider*, should contact their local health department (LHD) to determine whether further testing at a state laboratory is warranted. If approved, an outbreak investigation number will be issued and IDPH laboratories will test a subset of symptomatic patients to determine the pathogen driving transmission. Testing will include Influenza/SARS-CoV-2, a multiplex RT-PCR assay to differentiate influenza A, influenza B, and SARS-CoV-2. Additional testing may include influenza subtyping and/or a respiratory pathogen panel to screen for a more-comprehensive array of upper respiratory pathogens. Note that influenza subtyping is for surveillance purposes only and individual results will not be shared with providers.

Instructions for specimen submission are included on the IDPH web portal. The specimen MUST be collected using a nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media. Submissions should be transmitted by selecting the INF/COVID-19 test in the Electronic Test Ordering and Reporting (ETOR) portal. If ETOR becomes temporarily unavailable, a revised submission form, revision date 7/8/22, can be found [here](#). Resume use of ETOR as soon as functionality is restored. The IDPH laboratories are unable to routinely accept paper submission forms. If you are not registered in the ETOR patient portal, you can do so by emailing dph.labs.dmg@illinois.gov. Refer to the Manual of Services found [here](#) for more detailed instructions on how to submit influenza/COVID-19 specimens.

For questions regarding this test implementation and the approved uses, contact the IDPH molecular sections at your respective IDPH Laboratory:

- Carbondale IDPH Laboratory – 618-457-5131
- Chicago IDPH Laboratory – 312-793-4760
- Springfield IDPH Laboratory – 217-782-6562

*All LTC facilities should have an identified laboratory provider to perform routine and/or outbreak testing.