NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN-MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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Submission protocol for providers: Enhanced Summer 2024 Influenza Surveillance

For surveillance purposes, local hospitals and clinics are encouraged to submit selected specimens that test positive for influenza A or influenza B to a local public health laboratory. The laboratory will then perform additional testing to subtype the influenza virus. In turn, specimens will be forwarded to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for confirmation and antiviral resistance testing. Together, these surveillance efforts aid in detecting novel influenza viruses for effective intervention and control measures, in determining where and when influenza activity is occurring, and in selecting vaccine strains.

Submission instructions are as follows:

- 1. The hospital or clinic must be located in Napa, Solano, Yolo, Marin or Mendocino County.
- 2. The preferred specimen is a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal sample collected with a dacron-tipped swab and placed in 2–3 mL of viral transport medium.
- 3. A laboratory requisition, with all required fields completed, must accompany the specimen, and be placed in the side pouch of the specimen bag.
 - a. For "Tests requested", specify: Influenza A subtyping or Influenza B subtyping
 - b. Under comments, specify the severity of the case (e.g., fatal case, patient required hospitalization, outbreak, outpatient, etc.) as well as whether the patient received seasonal influenza vaccination ≥14 days prior to symptoms.
- 4. Once specimens are ready for pickup, contact the laboratory at (707) 784-4410. A pickup will usually be scheduled within one business day.

Subtyping results are usually available in COPIA within 1 week of specimen receipt unless the specimen is referred for further testing at CDPH. Please note that if the specimen was not previously tested for influenza, a fee will be incurred for initial influenza testing. By contrast, subtyping of influenza-positive specimens is performed at no charge.

We appreciate your participation in influenza surveillance efforts. For information on requisitions or influenza PCR testing, please contact the laboratory at (707) 784-4410 or visit our website.

Reference: CDC Strategy for Enhanced Summer 2024 Influenza Surveillance.