

State Hygienic Laboratory and Iowa Department of Public Health

Influenza Surveillance Testing Guidance 2018/2019

Patients must have **influenza-like illness (*fever and respiratory symptoms without other apparent cause*)**.
Contact IDPH or SHL for guidance in the event of an ILI outbreak.

When to submit specimens to SHL:

- **Outpatient- Labs performing rapid antigen tests:** Submit specimens until one rapid A and one rapid B is confirmed by RT- PCR at SHL
- **Outpatient- Labs performing molecular tests:** May submit 2-3 positives per week to contribute to surveillance
- **Inpatient-** hospitalized patients with suspected Influenza and without other apparent cause **regardless of in-house method or tests results**

What specimens to submit to SHL:

- Combined nasal swab and throat swab into one tube **OR** Nasopharyngeal swab
- Do not submit swabs or specimens that have been used for rapid testing
- Must be in viral transport medium (OK to use any type of viral transport media, but not bacterial transport media)

SHL will run PCR for Influenza A and B and if positive will: Determine A subtype (H3 or 2009 H1N1 pdm) or Determine B lineage (Victoria or Yamagata)

SHL confirmatory influenza testing serves the following purposes:

- Demonstrates predictive value of rapid tests
- Situational awareness- when and where flu is circulating
- Novel virus detection
- Contribute samples to CDC and WHO- antiviral resistance, vaccine strain selection and match to current vaccine
- Surveillance testing is provided at no cost and is partially supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Thank you for your support of this program!