



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

This is an official

MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20090617-1800-ADV (Health Advisory)

RECIPIENTS: Physicians (Family and General Practice, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine), and Hospitals (Admin & ED & InfCtl & Labs) – Statewide

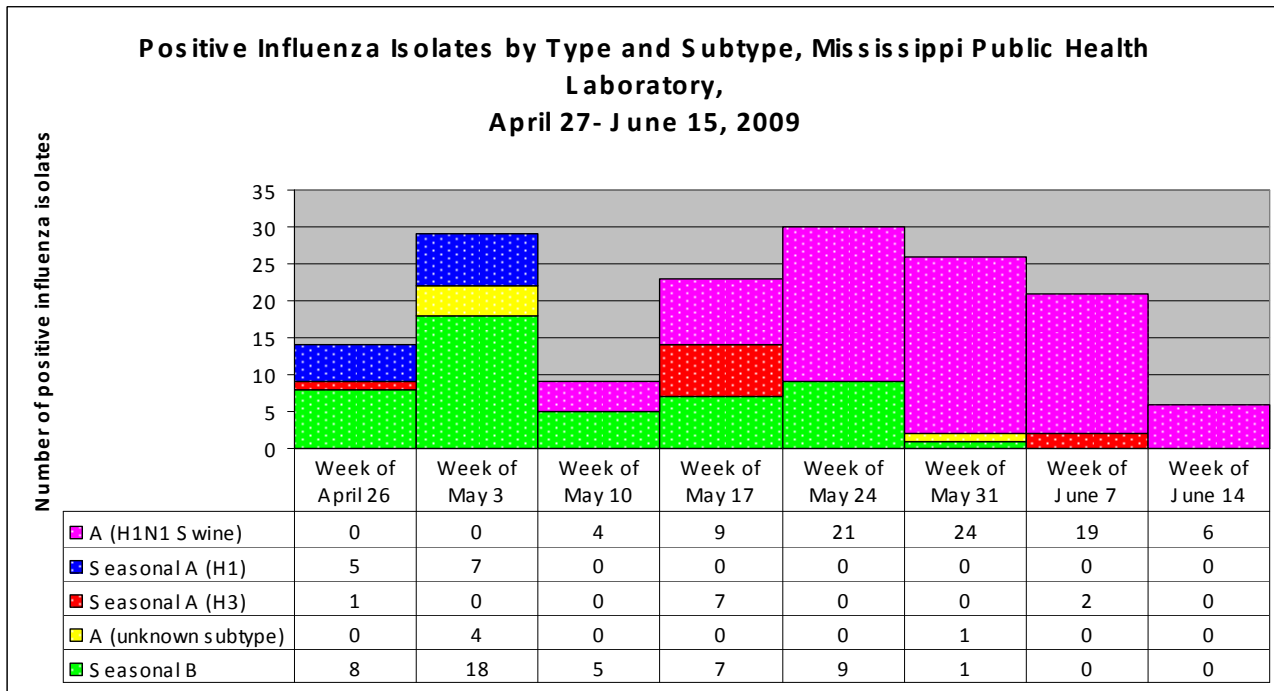
DATE: June 17, 2009

SUBJECT: **UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR NOVEL H1N1 (SWINE) INFLUENZA A TESTING**

Dear Colleagues,

Since April 27, 2009, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has instituted enhanced laboratory surveillance to detect the presence of novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) in the state. During this time frame, more than 900 samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for RT-PCR influenza testing. Initially, PHL testing indicated that the seasonal influenza A's and B's that were seen during the regular 2008-2009 were still the predominant types identified. However, from June 1-June 15, 90% (37/41) of the positive samples were the novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu), indicating that this subtype is now the major detected cause of influenza in the state. Additionally, there has not been a positive result for seasonal H1N1, which is resistant to oseltamivir, since the beginning of May. Figure 1 illustrates this change, with positive samples in the PHL graphed by week of testing. Positive novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) results have been reported in all regions of the state, except southwestern Mississippi (Public Health District VII). However, at least one individual has tested positive for novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) across the border from this area, in Louisiana.

Figure 1



This message is being distributed to you via the Mississippi State Department of Health - Health Alert Network (☞ HANhelp@msdh.state.ms.us ☎ 601-576-7400) --- Page 1 of 2

570 East Woodrow Wilson • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601-576-8090 • 1-866-HLTHY4U • www.HealthyMS.com

Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services

As testing data now indicate that almost all influenza in the state is due to the novel H1N1 (swine) flu virus, we will begin transition to more routine surveillance activities. Samples for RT-PCR influenza testing may be submitted under the following circumstances only:

1. Patients admitted to the hospital with an ILI
2. Patients who meet the case definition of influenza-like illness* and present to a designated sentinel provider who participates in the MS outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance system

***ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.**

We will no longer accept specimens from providers who are not part of the sentinel ILI surveillance system unless there are special circumstances that indicate a surveillance need (to arrange this please call the Central Office Epidemiology Program, during regular business hours, at 601.576.7725 or 1.800.556.0003 outside of the Jackson area)

The new testing guidelines, with a copy of the lab submission slip, are available on the MSDH website at <http://www.msdh.state.ms.us/msdhsite/static/14,0,334,154.html> Samples should be submitted to the PHL through the ILI provider's or the hospital's routine process. Submitters will be notified of results the next business day after the test is complete.

Novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) is now the predominant subtype from PHL testing. To date, the severity of this infection is consistent with typical seasonal influenza, and treatment and prophylaxis decisions should be based on clinical judgment, rather than the results of influenza testing.

It should be noted that persons with uncomplicated febrile illness consistent with an influenza-like illness typically do not require treatment unless they are at higher risk for influenza complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued recommendations for the treatment and prophylaxis of certain individuals at higher risk for complications from influenza infection, including those with chronic heart or lung disease (including asthma), diabetes, immunosuppression, or other chronic diseases, pregnant women, persons over the age of 65 or under the age of five, persons under the age of 19 on long term aspirin therapy and persons who are residents of chronic care facilities. The full CDC treatment and prophylaxis guidelines may be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>

We appreciate the cooperation of all providers in the state with efforts to identify and manage the recent outbreak of novel influenza subtype. As the typical influenza season approaches in the fall, providers may once again be called upon to assist MSDH with increased surveillance capacity. If individual providers are interested in becoming an ILI sentinel provider for the upcoming 2009-2010 influenza season, they may call the Surveillance Nurse at their Local Public Health District Office for information regarding enrollment and participation.

***This message is being distributed to you via the Mississippi State Department of Health
- Health Alert Network (☞ HANhelp@msdh.state.ms.us ☎ 601-576-7400) --- Page 2 of 2***

570 East Woodrow Wilson • Post Office Box 1700 • Jackson, MS 39215-1700
601-576-8090 • 1-866-HLTHY4U • www.HealthyMS.com

Equal Opportunity in Employment/Services