

Subject: Swine Flu Testing

Effective Date: April 27, 2009

Explanation of Change:

At this time, there are no known cases of swine flu in Washington State. However, this status may change at any time.

King County healthcare providers should consider the possibility of swine influenza in patients presenting with febrile respiratory illness who:

1. Live in San Diego County or Imperial County, California or San Antonio, Texas or Mexico (risk areas under investigation). Check the CDC website for the most current list of affected areas: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>
2. Have traveled to San Diego and/or Imperial County, California or San Antonio, Texas or Mexico
3. Have been in contact with ill persons from these areas in the 7 days prior to their illness onset.

If the patient meets the above criteria, 2 samples should be collected from the patient:

1. Nasopharyngeal swab for rapid Influenza A and B screening at NWCL.
2. Nasopharyngeal swab placed in viral transport media for possible swine flu testing by PCR at the public health laboratory. The sample should remain refrigerated and be transported to the Laboratory immediately. It should be noted on the requisition or on the nurse collect slip that the sample should be held for possible swine flu testing.

The Laboratory will call the provider with any positive Flu A result and discuss whether or not the patient meets the above criteria. If a sample was submitted in viral transport media, the Laboratory will send the sample to the public health laboratory after consultation/approval from the Public Health's Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section. This testing will be provided free of charge to the patient and the provider.

Viral transport medium will be sent to the outpatient providers who routinely order rapid Flu tests from NWCL, or upon request. If you do not have viral transport media on hand and you are presented with a patient meeting the above criteria for swine flu, please contact the laboratory client service department (206-368-1344) and a courier will bring transport media immediately.

The DOH is encouraging physicians to have their patients screened for the Flu virus before sending a sample to the public health laboratory. If you are performing rapid flu testing in your clinic or office, please call Public Health's Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section at 206-296-4774 to report a suspected case and obtain testing for swine influenza at the public health laboratory. They will facilitate transport of the specimen to the public health laboratory. *DO NOT send specimens to the public health*

laboratory before consulting with public health communicable disease epidemiology or the specimen may not be accepted.

<i>Test ID Test Name : FLU Influenza A and B Virus</i>	
Effective Date:	04/27/2009
Alternate Test Names:	Influenza A/B, Flu Screening, R/O Swine Flu
Additional Information:	R/O Swine Flu results will be found as MISC test result
Testing Frequency:	Flu screening performed daily, all shifts