

Indiana Health Alert Network

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Update on H1N1 Cases in Indiana and Specimen Submission Guidelines

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*Please review ISDH Laboratory submission guidelines at the end of this alert.

State health officials report one confirmed and four probable cases of North American Human Influenza A (H1N1) in Indiana. Given the high (>95%) positive predictive value of preliminary testing, probable cases are very likely to confirm. Confirmed and probable cases continue to be identified in many states and several countries over four continents. One death related to H1N1 has now been reported in the U.S., although the vast majority of cases are reported as relatively mild. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued guidance on enhanced surveillance, community containment measures, and chemoprophylaxis. This information can be found at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance. The focus on the federal level has shifted from containment of disease to limitation of disease transmission, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised the pandemic level to 5. According to the WHO, Phase 5 is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region. While most countries will not be affected at this stage, the declaration of Phase 5 is a strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) has created a call center to answer general questions from Indiana residents. Residents may call 877-826-0011 from 8:00-4:45, Monday-Friday.

A second call center has been created for health care providers. This call center is staffed by physicians. Providers only with specific clinical questions should call 866-233-1237. In addition, a web link dedicated to A/H1N1/North

America/Human influenza has been created on the ISDH Web page at the www.H1N1.in.gov and includes recommendations from CDC, frequently asked questions, and other guidance.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) would like to thank healthcare providers for their diligence in identifying potential cases of Influenza A/ (H1N1)/North America infection. ISDH and local health departments are investigating all potential leads and are working to protect and effectively educate the community.

Laboratory Submission Guidelines

Due to potential limitations in specimen supplies and laboratory capacity we ask that all laboratory submitters adhere strictly to the following submission requirements:

Patients must present with signs and symptoms characteristic of influenza (fever ≥ 100 degrees Fahrenheit with cough or sore throat), AND

- a) Have had a positive test result for influenza A, OR
- b) Have traveled to another state or country with confirmed cases of A/H1N1/North America/Human influenza within 7 days of illness, OR
- c) Have been in contact with someone ill with a suspected, probable, or confirmed case of the current outbreak strain within 7 days of illness.

Complete the entire ISDH Virology submission form, including travel history and exposure to suspected, probable, or confirmed cases of the current outbreak strain within 7 days of illness.

Note: Specimens that are influenza B positive with rapid influenza testing should not be sent.

Note: The ISDH Laboratory cannot test swabs that have already been used to perform rapid testing.

As this outbreak develops, laboratory submitting requirements may change so continue to review ISDH alerts.

Further directions for laboratory submission and guidelines for medical treatment can be found at www.H1N1.in.gov.