

From: State Health Commissioner
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 4:55 PM
To: 'physicians@lists.in.gov'; 'dentists@lists.in.gov'; 'pharmacists@lists.in.gov'; 'advancedpracticenurses@lists.in.gov'
Subject: Update for health providers on the outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1)
Importance: High

In my previous email I highlighted that we are seeing cases of the new H1N1 influenza virus in Indiana and now want to provide you with what we have seen over the past week both in Indiana and nationwide.

As of May 5 the CDC posted that there have been 403 confirmed cases with two deaths in Texas. There have been 702 probable cases identified. Currently there have been 43 hospitalizations among both confirmed and probable cases for a rate of 4%, which is higher than what we would expect with seasonal influenza. Indiana has identified 16 confirmed cases. CDC's experience to date is that 99% of the probable samples are confirming as the new H1N1. CDC has now indicated that state health laboratories can confirm cases with the CDC supplied reagents. This change will allow ISDH to rapidly complete testing on probables with a consequent upsurge of confirmed cases reported. The upsurge in confirmed cases is due to laboratory reporting, not an increase in disease at this time.

Thanks to all of you for the specimens that you have submitted to the ISDH Laboratory for testing. As of May 3, the laboratory has received 456 specimens for testing. Of those, 78% have tested negative, 16% have tested positive for seasonal influenza strains, and 5% have tested positive for influenza A, untypable (strongly suggestive of new H1N1). The ISDH Laboratory has received enough reagents from CDC to confirm 100 probable cases. To conserve testing resources, please **only submit samples meeting the case definition** (changed slightly 5/5/09) listed below. The ISDH Laboratory will only test specimens from those individuals who meet the suspect case definition or hospitalized patients with a respiratory illness. To allow easy assessment of submissions, it is essential to provide complete information on the laboratory request form (located at www.H1N1.in.gov).

Suspect case definition:

Clinical S/S

Fever \geq 100 F (self reported or documented)

Sore throat or cough

AND

Positive influenza A result (rapid test)

OR

Contact with someone ill (suspected, probable, or confirmed) within 7 days of illness

The ISDH has become aware of some local and temporary shortages of Tamiflu in some communities around the state. Given what we have seen in our testing, providers should be conservative in prescribing Tamiflu in that it may not be effective in treating seasonal influenza and wasted treating individuals with viral conditions other than influenza. The CDC has provided additional guidance for healthcare providers on treating special populations (pregnant women, children, those with HIV, and those with cardiovascular disease) at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>. The CDC has stressed that Tamiflu should be used in **treatment** of those at high risk of complications from influenza, not prophylaxis.

Algorithms to assist in testing and treating may be found at:

[http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Algorithm to assist in decisions on testing and treatment \(few cases\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Algorithm%20to%20assist%20in%20decisions%20on%20testing%20and%20treatment%20(few%20cases).pdf) and

[http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Algorithm to assist in decisions on testing and treatment \(many cases\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Algorithm%20to%20assist%20in%20decisions%20on%20testing%20and%20treatment%20(many%20cases).pdf).

The algorithm to be used will depend on the number of cases in your district. A map of case locations by county and district can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/flu/files/flumap.pdf>.

As of May 5, the CDC has provided new guidance on school closure that states that school closures are **not** advised unless absenteeism has reached a magnitude that interferes with the school's ability to function. This guidance may be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>.

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State Health Commissioner