

Indiana Health Alert Network

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IMPORTANT - ISDH INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE CHANGES

The ISDH is modifying its surveillance guidelines to conduct more effective and efficient case investigation and laboratory testing of the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus. National and statewide surveillance data now demonstrate that the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus is the predominant circulating influenza strain, and infections caused by the H1N1 virus remain mild and widespread. Several states are focusing now on utilizing their pre-existing outpatient influenza sentinel surveillance systems in an effort to conserve resources and begin planning for the fall influenza season.

*** Beginning Friday, July 10, viral specimen submission to the ISDH Laboratory to rule out infection with the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) virus strain will be limited to:

- 1) The 30 pre-established sentinel health care providers who participate in Indiana's Influenza Sentinel Physicians Surveillance Network. Sentinel health care providers are encouraged to continue to submit specimens on patients presenting with influenza-like illness (ILI), which is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100 degrees F with cough or sore throat.
- 2) Any death associated with ILI.

Specimens that were submitted on or prior to Friday, July 10 will still be tested by the ISDH Laboratory.

In addition, the ISDH Surveillance and Investigation Division will only conduct case investigations on individual influenza cases resulting in a death or cases related to outbreaks. Media updates including county-specific case counts will no longer be issued.

In this manner, the ISDH will continue to characterize the virus and describe any laboratory or clinical changes in its presentation. The ISDH will communicate

findings from this new surveillance strategy to all health care providers throughout the state in a timely fashion.

Epidemiology and Surveillance

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