

The City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory
*e*Lab Network of metro-Milwaukee

Re: FEE-EXEMPT & FEE-FOR-SERVICE 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA A TESTING POLICY for
MHDL

October 23, 2009

This information includes guidelines for the use of fee-exempt testing services for the 2009 H1N1 influenza A outbreak. These guidelines are intended to ensure that the resources at the City of Milwaukee Public Health Laboratory (MHDL) are used effectively.

Transport and testing will be provided by the MHDL on a fee-exempt basis **only for specimens collected from patients who have acute febrile respiratory illness AND meet one of the following criteria:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospitalization
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Worker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child 2 years of age or less
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident or Staff of Residential or Correctional Facility	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MHD (Epi) Approval
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Death

A redesigned surveillance form that lists the criteria for fee exempt testing is included on the web page. Use of this form is strongly recommended as it will be reviewed for specific criteria when received. If specimens do not specify criteria or do not appear to meet criteria for fee-exempt testing, tests will be run on a fee-for-service basis.

Note: These guidelines refer to fee-exempt testing for cases of public health interest for surveillance purposes, and should not be construed as guidance for clinical management of individual patients.

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE MHD GUIDANCE REGARDING TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS.

'Fee-for-service' testing is available for patients who do not meet the criteria listed above. Healthcare facilities/providers and clinical laboratories should inquire with their reference laboratory about test availability. PCR testing for influenza A and B is available at the MHDL on a 'fee-for-service' basis and may be available at other laboratories (see enclosed list).

To request 'fee-for-service' testing from MHDL, check 2009 H1N1 (PCR) on an MHDL requisition (available at 414.286.3526 or website, see below; CPT code for this test is 87789 x 2, and the cost is \$225).

If you have questions, please contact MHDL at 414.286.3526 or visit our web site:
<http://www.milwaukee.gov/SpecialReports3622/MHDLabH1N1SwineFlu2009.htm>

Please see the following list of laboratories that may offer influenza PCR testing.

Wisconsin Laboratories That May Provide Influenza PCR Testing

(The list below may not be all-inclusive and does not imply endorsement.)

- ACL Laboratories, West Allis
 - Contact: (800-877-7016)
- Childrens Hospital of Wisconsin & Midwest Respiratory Virus Program Laboratory
 - Contact: 414-266-2522
- Dynacare Laboratories, Milwaukee
 - Contact: Customer Service (414-805-7600)
- Marshfield Labs, Marshfield
 - Contact: (800-222-5835 or 715-221-6700)
- Meriter Laboratories, Madison
 - Contact: Sue LeMay-Jaeger (608 417-3833 or 1-800-236-0465)
- Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
 - Contact: 608-262-1293 (www.slh.wisc.edu/comdis/swineflu.dot)
- Prodesse Clinical Reference Laboratory, Waukesha
 - Contact: Karen Harrington (262-446-0700, ext.116) or email kharrington@prodesse.com
- ProHealth Laboratories, Waukesha
 - Contact: Lori Dieringer (262-928-7899) or Doug Kiser (262-928-4071)
- Nationally, PCR testing (including subtyping) for novel influenza A(H1N1) virus is available through Quest Laboratories or Focus Diagnostics, California, and may become available at other laboratories.