



Health Alert



City of Chicago
Brandon Johnson, Mayor

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Chicago Department of Public Health
Olusimbo Ige, MD, MS, MPH, Commissioner

Diagnostic Influenza Specimen Submissions to IDPH Laboratories using ETOR

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Summary and Action Items

- The Illinois Department of Public Health Division of Laboratories (IDPH DOL) is transitioning to the online Electronic Test Ordering and Results (ETOR) portal for Diagnostic Influenza testing performed at IDPH Laboratories.
- IDPH request submitters begin using ETOR moving forward for any **Diagnostic Influenza specimen submissions, including influenza A-positive ICU patients, patients with an unsubtypeable influenza specimens, and suspected H5 patients.**
- Register at <https://prod.labwebportal.com/il/#/auth/login> and complete the enrollment process. Communicable Disease requisition forms, for Diagnostic Influenza testing, will no longer be accepted by the laboratory after March 14, 2025.
- **Providers much obtain an authorization code from CDPH prior to completing the IDPH ETOR.**
 - **SUSPECT CASES:** If you suspect a human H5N1 infection, call the CDPH Disease Reporting Hotline at 312-743-9000, option 2, for guidance and testing instructions. After hours, weekends, and holidays, call 311 and ask for the communicable disease medical director on-call (or 312-744-5000 if outside the City of Chicago).
 - To request Influenza A subtyping for influenza A-positive ICU patients or patients with an unsubtypeable influenza specimen (see description below), complete this [REDCap Testing Request form](#).

BACKGROUND

Please view the attached document entitled, "20250226_Diagnostic_Influenza_ETOR".

All attached documents are posted in the SIREN Document Library under HAN Notifications > IDPH News Releases and can be viewed by logging in to www.siren.illinois.gov.

TESTING

Routine influenza testing cannot normally distinguish between currently circulating seasonal influenza A strains (H1N1 and H3N2) and avian influenza (H5N1). In certain circumstances, influenza A subtyping and specific avian influenza testing may be warranted.

- **Suspected H5N1 infections:** Symptomatic patients with possible exposure to H5 (see provider algorithm) may be tested for H5 through the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) laboratory with CDPH approval. If you suspect H5N1 infection in your patient, call the CDPH Disease Reporting Hotline at 312-743-9000, option 2, for guidance and testing instructions as soon as possible. After hours, weekends, and holidays, call 311 and ask for the communicable disease physician on-call (or 312-744-5000 if outside the City of Chicago).
- **Enhanced influenza surveillance:**
 - *Influenza ICU admissions:* Diagnostic influenza A subtyping at IDPH laboratory will be limited to specimens from patients who are critically ill (i.e. receiving intensive care). **Healthcare facilities are encouraged to subtype influenza A specimens from hospitalized patients for H1/H3 in their own labs when possible.** Influenza A-

positive ICU patients for whom subtyping cannot be performed at a clinical or commercial laboratory can have influenza subtyping performed at IDPH laboratory. To request influenza subtyping at IDPH, please complete this [CDPH Flu A Subtyping Request Form](#).

- *Unsubtypeable influenza specimens*: Influenza specimens that are unsubtypeable (**e.g., from molecular assays capable of detecting all currently circulating seasonal influenza A virus subtypes that identify an unsubtypeable result**) should be submitted to the IDPH laboratory for diagnostic influenza A subtyping. To request influenza subtyping at IDPH, please complete this [CDPH Flu A Subtyping Request Form](#).

Submissions for influenza A subtyping listed above, must be submitted to IDPH laboratory with a CDPH issued authorization code. Specimens submitted to IDPH laboratory without prior authorization by CDPH may be rejected. Please review the [IDPH - Manual of Services - Influenza Virus Molecular \(Page 34\)](#) prior to submission.

Virologic sentinel surveillance sites should continue to submit specimens as previously requested.

REPORTING AND CONTACT INFORMATION: For clinical questions contact the CDPH Disease Reporting Hotline at 312-743-9000, option 2. After hours, weekends, and holidays, call 311 and ask for the communicable disease medical director on-call (or 312-744-5000 if outside the City of Chicago).