



County of Orange

Enhanced Surveillance for Novel Swine Influenza H3N2

Instructions for Sending Influenza Test-Positive Specimens to the Public Health Laboratory

Thank you for your participation in our enhanced surveillance for novel swine influenza H3N2. Please forward all influenza-positive specimens ASAP to the Public Health Laboratory (PHL). PHL will subtype influenza virus from influenza-positive specimens (i.e., nasopharyngeal wash, swab, culture, or DFA test remnant) that are submitted. Influenza subtyping will be performed free of charge; however, rapid (same day) turnaround testing is not routinely provided by PHL for these specimens. We will notify you when we are returning to usual influenza surveillance procedures.

Instructions for submitting an influenza-positive specimen to PHL:

1. **Specimen: Send ASAP and keep refrigerated to protect the viability of the specimen.**
2. **Laboratory Slip: Complete a laboratory slip. A completed laboratory slip must accompany each specimen sent to PHL (see example attached):**

Submitter number – this number is preprinted on the lab slip under “Client Information”– Call PHL (714) 834-8401 for preprinted lab slips for your facility, if you do not have any.

Client Information – this information is pre-printed on the lab slips.

Patient information – print the patient’s name **exactly** as it appears on the specimen container, as well as the patient’s address, demographic information, and the date the specimen was collected.

Culture Request – for “Specimen Source” check the appropriate box; if the source is not listed, check “Other”, and enter the specimen source (i.e. “Tracheal Aspirate” etc.).

Virology – check “V8 Influenza PCR” under the Virology Section of the lab slip.

Other Tests/Notes – in this space, write in “Influenza Surveillance Program; influenza screen positive by _____”. In the blank, fill in what test was used for screening.

To request more laboratory slips, please call (714) 834-8401.

3. **Delivery: You may send the specimen along with others being delivered to PHL or you may call Central Processing (714) 834-8401 to arrange for a courier pick-up.**

When you call, identify yourself as a participant in the **Influenza Surveillance Program** and provide your submitter number, specimen pick-up address, contact name and telephone number, as well as any special locating instructions; a courier will pick up the specimen and deliver it to PHL. For other information, please see the OCPHL website at <http://ocphlab.com/>.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding these procedures, please call the **Influenza Surveillance Epidemiologist or the ILI Epidemiologist at (714) 834-8180**
Epidemiology and Assessment