



STATE OF MARYLAND

# DHMH

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## Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street · Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Community Health Administration

Peter Sybinsky, PhD, Director

Richard Stringer, Deputy Director

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 4, 2009 **HO Memo #09-040**

**TO:** Health Officers  
Communicable Disease Directors  
Communicable Disease Staff  
Nursing Directors

**FROM:** Alvina Chu, MHS  
Chief, Division of Outbreak Investigation

**THROUGH:** Lucy Wilson, MD, ScM  
Chief, Center for Clinical Epidemiology

**RE:** INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR POSSIBLE NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA CASES

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Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs (EDCP), in conjunction with CDC guidance, has revised its recommendations for healthcare providers for screening and testing possible novel H1N1 "swine flu" cases. This is a rapidly evolving outbreak, and we do appreciate that guidance is needed, and should be updated frequently. Testing will now focus on identifying those most severely affected (hospitalized) or working with most vulnerable (healthcare workers) and school age children/adult school workers with the clinical features of: T>100°F AND cough or sore throat OR sepsis-like syndrome. Guidance has been provided to health care providers that viral testing of above individuals should be obtained through nasopharyngeal or throat swabs (Dacron or synthetic on plastic or wire shaft in viral transport media only) or respiratory secretions (regardless of rapid test result) and they should contact their local health department prior to sending the specimen to state public health laboratory.

Attachments:

- 1) INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR POSSIBLE NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA CASES

cc: S. Adams  
D. Blythe  
M. Carlos  
J. Colmers  
J. DeBoy  
J. Krick  
R. Myers  
F. Phillips  
R. Stringer  
P. Sybinsky