



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

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: July 15, 2009 **HO Memo #09-054**

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: UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR POSSIBLE NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA CASES

Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs (EDCP) has posted an updated testing algorithm, available on the DHMH website at:

<http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/swineflu/pdf/Lab_testing_guidance_07-10-2009_ALL.pdf>

Recommendations are unchanged from the June 22, 2009 testing algorithm, the updated graphic combines recommendations for providers and local health departments into one graphic. Testing is still focused on identifying those most severely affected (hospitalized or deceased) and supporting cluster/outbreak investigations.

This updated guidance will be provided to acute and long term care facilities, and private providers through Med Chi, and the Maryland chapters of AAP, and AAFP.

Attachments:

- 1) INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR SPECIMEN COLLECTION FOR POSSIBLE NOVEL H1N1 FLU CASES FOR PROVIDERS AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (Updated July 10, 2009)

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