



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

May 27, 2009

Dear Influenza Surveillance Collaborator:

RE: Continued Surveillance of the ongoing novel influenza H1N1 virus outbreak

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) continues to conduct surveillance of the ongoing novel influenza H1N1 virus outbreak. We appreciate your participation as sentinel clinical laboratories and want to make sure you are aware that we have extended the existing influenza surveillance period beyond its original end date of May 20, 2009, until further notice.

As a result, we are requesting that you continue to submit all Influenza A virus positive specimens by rapid antigen test, PCR, and virus culture to the DHMH Laboratories Administration for confirmation and further characterization. For additional questions or concerns regarding specimen submissions to the DHMH Laboratories, please contact Dr. Robert Myers or Dr. Maria Paz Carlos at 410-767-6152 during normal business hours.

Enclosed is our "Clinical Laboratory Flu Surveillance Report Form." We would appreciate your continued weekly submission of the form to our Influenza Surveillance Coordinator, Rene Najera, by fax at 410-669-4215 or online at <http://tinyurl.com/summer09labs>. For additional questions or concerns regarding flu surveillance reporting, please contact Rene Najera at 410-767-6235.

DHMH will continue to update you as needed on this fluid situation. Current CDC guidance can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us, at 410-767-6100 for the Laboratories Administration, or at 410-767-6700 for Epidemiology and Disease Control, or your local health department. Thank you for your collaboration.

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