

THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Join the **Clinical Laboratory Influenza Monitoring Program!**

OVERVIEW

Clinical laboratories conduct surveillance for influenza in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). Data reported by clinical laboratories, in combination with other influenza surveillance data provide a national picture of influenza virus and its activity in the United States.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Clinical laboratories report rapid influenza tests results to the Maryland Department of Health each week. Results can be from tests performed by Rapid Influenza Diagnostics tests (RIDTs), by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or both. This data is submitted weekly via an electronic survey form.

The submission includes:

- Total number of rapid flu tests performed during the week you are reporting
- Number of positive rapid flu tests during the week you are reporting
- Number of positives for Type A influenza and Type B influenza

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any clinical laboratories in Maryland that perform influenza testing via Rapid Influenza Diagnostics tests (RIDTs) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can participate.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality every year. Clinical laboratory data are critical in monitoring the course of influenza activity on the local, state, and national level. Also, laboratory data, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care, and are critical for protecting the public's health.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Maryland influenza surveillance coordinator at

mdh.flu@maryland.gov

or visit us at

health.maryland.gov/phpa/influenza

READY TO GET INVOLVED?

Fill out this form and submit by email to mdh.flu@maryland.gov or by fax to (410) 225-7615

Your name:

Hospital or laboratory name:

Address:

Phone number:

Email (primary contact method):

Type of influenza testing kit:
