



Pat Quinn, Governor  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of IDPH, Hospital Laboratories, Hospital Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Administrators

**FROM:** Craig S. Conover, MD State Epidemiologist , Illinois Department of Public Health

**DATE:** Friday, May 01, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Updated Interim Guidance: Testing for H1N1 Flu (Swine) Virus Infection

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At this time, IDPH does **NOT** recommend routine influenza testing for persons with mild influenza-like illness since ill patients can be medically managed without confirmatory laboratory testing. In order to determine whether the H1N1 flu (swine) virus is causing severe illness in Illinois, IDPH is focusing its testing efforts on hospitalized patients with severe illness.

### **Persons with mild illness should not be tested for influenza.**

At this time, IDPH recommends influenza testing **ONLY for hospitalized patients with serious illness** that meets the following clinical criteria:

- Fever >37.8 degrees C (100 degrees F) **and**
- Respiratory symptom (may include cough, sore throat, etc)
- Sepsis-like syndrome<sup>1</sup>

Influenza testing may also be indicated for special circumstances, e.g. epidemiologically-linked clusters of suspected cases.

In order to ensure that sufficient laboratory resources are available; testing at IDPH will be performed only if approval has been obtained from the local health department prior to testing. Requisition forms must include information regarding age, sex, as well as city and county of residence. Providers should not send specimens to IDPH unless advised to do so.

<sup>1</sup> As with seasonal influenza, infants, adults aged greater than or equal to 65 years-old, and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.