TO: Nebraska Clinical Laboratories

FROM: Robin M. Williams, DHHS Influenza Surveillance Coordinator
        402-471-0935 PHONE
        402-471-3601 FAX
        e-mail: robin.m.williams@nebraska.gov

Thomas J. Safranek, M.D.
State Epidemiologist

RE: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Request
DATE: October 15, 2010

Dear Nebraska Laboratory Personnel:

Thank you for your continued participation in influenza surveillance. We are asking for surveillance data from labs by noon, the following Tuesday, after the surveillance week. The surveillance week begins at 12:01 AM on Sunday and runs through midnight on Saturday (e.g., October 3-9 is a surveillance week). Although less widely performed, we will again include respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) laboratory testing as part of this surveillance system. If your laboratory is currently submitting electronic influenza laboratory reports, you do not need to report but only review this document for updated information. Thank you.

Recommendations on Laboratory Testing

- Patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) should be tested by a rapid antigen test that can differentiate influenza A or B. Collection of a high-quality nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and the interpretation of the test are critical to optimizing the sensitivity/specificity of these tests.

- All providers in NE are encouraged to submit NP specimens to the NPHL for any pregnant patients with ILI, for any patient admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with ILI, or for any hospitalized patient for whom influenza diagnostic laboratory testing cannot be obtained through a hospital or reference laboratory can be tested through NPHL.

- Hospitalized patients with suspected influenza should undergo a diagnostic workup using rapid flu tests or PCR testing through the hospital’s in-house and/or reference laboratories. Commercial laboratory testing for influenza PCR is currently available, and should be utilized when indicated.

- For all specimens submitted for testing at NPHL, complete and submit a NPHL requisition http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/pub/epi/flu/docs/flunphltestrequisition.pdf with the specimen. Fax a copy of the requisition to DHHS 402-471-3601 attn: Robin Williams. For specific clinical laboratory questions please contact NPHL client services at 1-866-290-1406 or visit the NPHL website at http://www.nphl.org/.
Please enter data for tests that were finalized during the seven days that started at 12:01 am on Sunday, October 3, 2010 and ended at midnight on Saturday, October 9, 2010. The website can be accessed at: https://han.ne.gov/survey/SurveyDispatcher
PIN code: flulab2010. If you have already submitted data for this week, thank you.

FAX
TO: Robin Williams, DHHS Influenza Surveillance Coordinator
Fax: (402) 471-3601 Phone: (402) 471-0935
Name of Flu Surveillance Lab Contact Person: _______________________________
Phone Number (______) __________________________
Organization/Laboratory ________________________________
County _______________________ (double check data entry)

PLEASE CHOOSE THE CORRECT SURVEILLANCE WEEK ON THE WEBSITE!!!

Total Test Volume ________________
Positive for Influenza A ________________
Positive for Influenza B ________________

Rapid Diagnostic Test Used

__ 3M™ Rapid Detection Flu A+B Test7,9(3M)
__ Directigen EZ Flu A+B (Becton-Dickinson)
__ BinaxNOW Influenza A&B (Inverness)
__ OSOM® Influenza A&B (Genzyme)
__ QuickVue Influenza Test (Quidel)
__ QuickVue Influenza A+B Test (Quidel)
__ SAS FluAlert (SA Scientific)
__ SAS Influenza A Test, (SA Scientific)
__ SAS Influenza B Test, (SA Scientific)
__ TRU FLU (Meridian Bioscience)
__ XPECT Flu A&B (Remel)
__ 3M™ Rapid Detection Flu A+B Test7,9(3M)
__ Directigen EZ Flu A+B (Becton-Dickinson)
__ BinaxNOW Influenza A&B (Inverness)
__ Other Influenza Test (please specify):______________________________

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
Total Volume ________________ Positive for RSV ________________