

Memo

To: PHYSICIANS LABORATORY SERVICES CLIENTS
Date: APRIL 28, 2009
From: Shari Talbert, Microbiology Supervisor
Re: **SWINE FLU UPDATE**

Test #1592 Influenza Type A and B Virus Antigen Screen (rapid influenza test) should be ordered in cases of suspected swine flu influenza A (H1N1).

A nasopharyngeal swab or washing should be collected and placed in M4 media. All samples will be tested for Influenza A and B, and any sample positive for type A will automatically be forwarded to the State Department of Health for further testing. If positive for Swine Flu, the State Department of Health will submit to the CDC for confirmation.

The State Health Department recommends all personnel collecting the specimen should wear some kind of protective facial equipment, e.g. surgical mask, respirator, or face shield, and wash their hands thoroughly.

Symptoms of swine influenza infection include cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, runny nose, and muscle aches. The new variant SI is resistant to the adamantane drugs (amantadine and rimantadine), but is susceptible to oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza).

If you have questions, please contact our Microbiology Department.