

To: Dynacare Clients

From: Dr. Nathan Ledeboer, Director, Microbiology and Molecular Diagnostics (414-805-7556)
Kristina Georgakas, MT (ASCP), Manager, Microbiology (414-805-7558)

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SWINE FLU INFORMATION

Over 1,000 cases of presumed swine influenza have been diagnosed in Mexico, with more than 80 deaths attributed to the infection. Many of the infected patients have been young adults and children.

Currently there are confirmed swine flu cases in the United States, mostly in Southern California (San Diego Co. and Imperial Co.), Texas (Guadalupe Co.), New Mexico, Arizona, and New York City. There are also suspected cases in Michigan, Ohio, and Kansas. At present, there are no known cases in Wisconsin. The U.S. cases have also been mostly in children and young adults, and symptoms and complications have been mild with no deaths and only a single hospitalization.

The virus in this outbreak has components of avian, swine, and human flu. It tests as influenza A on Nucleic Acid Amplified Test (NAAT), but does not subtype to a known subtype when tested by routine exams. From what is known, specimens have been ***resistant to*** amantidine and ramantidine, but ***susceptible to*** oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zamamivir (Relenza).

TESTING AVAILABLE AT DYNACARE LABORATORIES:

Dynacare Laboratories currently has three orderable tests (listed below) that will cover Influenza A testing. Please see the attached table for ordering information. Also, attached are nasopharyngeal (NP) swab collection guidelines.

- V FLU NAAT (Influenza A & B)
- V FLURSV NAAT (Influenza A & B and RSV)
- V RESPNAAT (Influenza A & B, RSV, and Parainfluenza 1,2,3)

Please note the following key points:

- Current recommendations for specimen collection are to obtain one nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and one throat swab.
- The M4 Viral Transport kit provided by Dynacare Laboratories includes a flexible wire NP swab for NP specimen collection and a regular swab with a plastic shaft for throat specimen collection. Both swabs should be placed into the same tube of M4 medium provided in the kit and submitted as one specimen.
- These swabs are made of Dacron and are acceptable for Influenza (and other viral) testing.
- Dynacare Laboratories will screen specimens for Influenza A.
- Specimens positive for Influenza A will be sent to the WSLH for subtyping to rule out the Swine Flu strain.

DYNACARE LABORATORIES

Affiliated With  Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin

RESPIRATORY VIRUS TESTING

TEST	MNEMONIC & TEST CODE	VIRUSES DETECTED	TEST METHOD	ACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS*	SENSITIVITY
Respiratory Virus NAAT	V RESPNAAT 6750009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza A & B • RSV • Parainfluenza 1,2,3 	Real-Time PCR	All respiratory specimens	96-99%
Influenza A/B and RSV NAAT	V FLURSV NAAT 6750012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza A & B • RSV 	Real-Time PCR	All respiratory specimens	96-99%
Influenza A/B NAAT	V FLU NAAT 6750010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influenza A & B 	Real-Time PCR	All respiratory specimens	96%

LEGEND

NAAT: Nucleic Acid Amplified Test

RSV: Respiratory Syncytial Virus

PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction

*ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TRANSPORT

M4 Viral Transport medium[†]

Sterile container (fluid specimens only)[†]

M4-RT Viral Transport medium

Liquid Stuart's Mini-tip (dark green cap)[†]

M5 Viral Transport medium[†]

Liquid Amies Mini-tip (dark green cap)[†]

[†]Store and transport specimens under refrigerated conditions

Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection For Viral Testing

Please use the small swab with flexible wire shaft provided in the M4 Viral Transport Medium kit to reach the nasopharynx through the nose.

Collection Guidelines:

1. Insert swab into nostril with head at a 70° angle.
2. Press swab tip on the mucosal surface of the mid-inferior portion of the inferior turbinate (see drawing below). Rub the swab tip several times across the mucosal surface to loosen and collect cellular material.
3. Withdraw swab and insert into the tube of M4 Viral Transport and cap securely.

