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Reporting of Influenza Cases for the 2010-11 Season

The California Department of Public Health has updated the influenza reporting guidance for the 2010-11 Influenza Season. The reporting requirements are outlined below.

A. Reporting of the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus specific cases

Since the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus is no longer considered an unusual disease, case-based reporting of fatalities and ICU cases is no longer required, except as noted below.

B. Reporting of influenza deaths in laboratory-confirmed* cases for ages 0-64 years

1. Mandatory reporting of influenza deaths in laboratory-confirmed cases for ages 0-17 years should be faxed to Disease Control at (951) 358-5102, using the Severe Influenza Case History form.
2. Reporting of influenza deaths in laboratory-confirmed cases for ages 18-64 years is also requested. Please fax the case history form to Disease Control at (951) 358-5102.

C. Reporting of laboratory-confirmed* influenza cases for ages 0-64 years requiring intensive care

1. Based on the request from California Department of Public Health, Riverside County Department of Public Health Disease Control is requesting continuation of surveillance of ICU cases for ages 0-64 years for any type of influenza.
2. This information will assist in monitoring populations and age groups at highest risk for severe disease as the immunity to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus in Riverside County and California evolves.

*Laboratory confirmation can include any positive test performed by any clinical, commercial or local public health laboratory, including by positive rapid antigen testing. Since rapid antigen tests may yield a relatively high proportion of false positive results when influenza prevalence is low, it is recommended that a positive rapid antigen test result be followed up with confirmatory testing using one of the other indicated methods, such as direct fluorescence assay, culture or polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Specimens may be requested for further sub-typing/characterization. Please submit specimens to Riverside County Public Health laboratory for forwarding to the California Viral and Rickettsial Diseases Laboratory (VRDL), which will support monitoring of this sentinel population for strains of influenza viruses that may be causing severe disease or novel pandemic viruses and to identify increasing antiviral resistance.

Please contact Janna Troy, Public Health Laboratory Manager, at (951) 358-5070 for questions on specimen submission. Disease Control can be reached at 951-358-5107 for questions on reporting influenza cases.