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Note: Contact information for the Alaska Section of Epidemiology can be found at the end of this message.

Alaska Public Health Update

Update No. 2: Revised Testing Recommendations for Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009

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On June 24, 2009, the Department of Health and Social Services published *Update: Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) and Testing Recommendations*. This July 13, 2009 update replaces the previous recommendations for submitting specimens to the Alaska State Virology Laboratory (ASVL).

Specimens that should not be submitted to the ASVL

- Outpatient specimens that are positive by rapid influenza A testing.
- Specimens that are positive by rapid influenza B testing.
- Specimens from patients with typical or moderate influenza symptoms.

Specimens that should be submitted to the ASVL

- Specimens from hospitalized patients with influenza-like illness, regardless of rapid test results.
- Outpatient specimens from patients with severe influenza-like illness that are negative by rapid influenza A testing.

Specimens from patients with typical or moderate influenza symptoms should no longer be submitted to public health laboratories. ASVL's current testing priority is to conduct public health monitoring for more severe illness due to Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009. Health care providers wishing to submit specimens for routine outpatient influenza testing are encouraged to contact any of the CLIA-certified commercial clinical laboratories serving Alaska.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This message is sent to you as a service of the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, through the Section of Epidemiology, 3601 C St, Suite 540, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, (907) 269-8000. The Section of Epidemiology maintains a 24-hour Emergency Number, 1-800-478-0084. Internet site: <http://www.epi.Alaska.gov>.