



Pat Quinn, Governor
Damon T. Arnold, M.D., M.P.H., Director

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments, Regional Offices of IDPH, All Hospital Laboratories, Hospital Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Administrators, Physicians

FROM: Craig S. Conover, MD State Epidemiologist

DATE: Saturday, May 02, 2009

SUBJECT: Interim guidance: approval process for testing of laboratory specimens for H1N1 Influenza (Swine) Virus Infection Testing at IDPH :

Testing for H1N1 swine influenza at IDPH will be performed as follows:

1) For **hospitalized patients** with severe illness that may be due to swine influenza. The rationale for testing is to a) assist with clinical management; and b) determine to what extent swine influenza causes severe disease.

Note: Until further notice, hospital staff / hospital laboratories no longer need to call to obtain approval for testing of inpatient specimens. However, hospital laboratory directors (or their designee) need to sign each requisition form to verify that the specimen is from an inpatient hospitalization. Please sign the form in red ink to facilitate specimen identification in our very busy laboratory.

2) If approval has been obtained from your [local health department](#) (including CDPH) prior to testing (e.g. for epidemiologic investigation of certain clusters). You will be provided with an outbreak identification number to place on the IDPH specimen submission form when submitting these specimens.

Recommendations are expected to change as this investigation continues to evolve. Thank you for your cooperation.