



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
Honolulu, Hawaii 96801-3378
May 7, 2009

MEDICAL ADVISORY:
Interim Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Patients with Influenza-like Illness

Dear Hawai'i Healthcare Provider,

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) has confirmed 2 cases of novel (swine-origin) influenza A (H1N1) infection resulting from local transmission. Rapidly determining the scope of community transmission in Hawai'i is critical to ensuring appropriate response by public health officials and healthcare providers. Therefore, DOH requests that healthcare providers test for influenza by RT-PCR in ALL patients presenting with symptoms consistent with influenza-like illness (fever with T>37.8°C or 100°F PLUS respiratory symptoms including cough, sore throat, or rhinorrhea), regardless of travel history.

Providers are advised that rapid influenza antigen tests have limited sensitivity and do NOT provide the ability to diagnose novel influenza A (H1N1). DOH also continues to identify seasonal influenza cases caused by (non-swine) influenza A (H1N1) and influenza A (H3N2) as well as influenza B in Hawai'i. Distinguishing novel influenza A (H1N1) from seasonal influenza A is not possible by rapid antigen testing.

For your convenience, please refer to the attached interim clinical algorithms to help guide your practice. DOH will evaluate data from RT-PCR testing and case investigations biweekly to determine whether these interim guidelines continue to be warranted. If subsequent findings support a change in these recommendations prior to May 23, 2009, DOH will issue a revised guideline.

If you have any questions, please contact DOH at the numbers below:

- O'ahu (Disease Investigation Branch) (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office (808) 984-8213
- Kaua'i District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo) (808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877
- After hours on O'ahu (808) 566-5049
- After hours on neighbor islands..... 1(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate the assistance and partnership of the medical community in identifying the potential transmission of novel influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) virus in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist