



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

May 19, 2009

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: Revised Algorithms for Clinicians**

- 1) Explanation of Diagnostic Options for Influenza-like Illness**
- 2) Interim Guidance for Diagnosing and Treating Influenza-like Illness during Novel Influenza H1N1 (swine flu) Community Transmission**

Dear Hawai'i Healthcare Provider,

The Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) is issuing updated algorithms to help guide clinicians in the diagnosis and treatment of influenza-like illness. HDOH continues to observe ongoing seasonal influenza and novel influenza H1N1 (swine flu) transmission. These revised algorithms provide guidance in conjunction with the May 18, 2009 Medical Advisory: Suggested Prioritization Schema for Influenza RT-PCR Testing.

HDOH reminds clinicians of the important limitations of influenza rapid antigen tests:

- 1) A negative influenza rapid antigen test result should NOT be used to exclude influenza, because of the strong likelihood of false-negative results, both for seasonal and novel H1N1 influenza.
- 2) Rapid antigen tests do not provide subtyping results and therefore DO NOT distinguish seasonal influenza from novel influenza H1N1 (swine flu).

Influenza RT-PCR testing remains the only reliable and readily available diagnostic assay for identifying seasonal and novel influenza infections.

If you have questions regarding diagnosis and treatment of influenza-like illness, please contact HDOH 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 your partnership in assisting with the community mitigation of novel influenza H1N1 (swine flu) virus in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Y. Park". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP  
State Epidemiologist