

For Health Professionals

Health Alerts

Health Alert Priority #111 Addendum - Influenza B Strain Identified - November 18, 2004

The Influenza B culture testing collected from a patient in a Cheektowaga long-term care facility was identified as reactive to Sichuan antigen on 11/16/04.

On 11/11/04 a patient from a long-term care facility in Cheektowaga was identified as rapid antigen test positive for Influenza B. An additional specimen from the patient was confirmed for Influenza B (Direct Fluorescent Antibody) on 11/12/04. Results from culture testing for strain identification confirmed the specimen as reactive to Sichuan antigen. The Sichuan antigen was included as an antigenic determinant in the development of the 2004-2005 Influenza vaccine.

Healthcare providers and long-term care facilities are encouraged to report cases of Flu-like illness to the Erie County Department of Health at (716) 858-7697 Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.