



# County of Erie

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**HEALTH ADVISORY #247** **UPDATED JUNE 26, 2009**  
**NOVEL INFLUENZA A H1N1 (SWINE FLU) PROVIDER REPORTING  
REQUIREMENTS AND LABORATORY TESTING PRIORITIES THAT WILL BE USED  
BY THE ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*Please distribute immediately to Community providers, staff in the Departments of Laboratory Medicine, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Infection Control, Pediatrics, Pulmonary Medicine, and all inpatient and outpatient units.*

**Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) Provider Reporting Requirements and Laboratory Testing Priorities That Will Be Utilized by the Erie County Department of Health**

Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) is a reportable disease in New York State. Providers are requested to report ALL *suspect* cases who meet any of the reporting criteria below to the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) Epidemiology and Surveillance Division during regular business hours by calling (716) 858-7697. **The ECDOH will then determine whether testing for Novel Influenza A H1N1 will be conducted for epidemiological purposes.** Patients should be reported regardless of the results of any influenza A testing since the use of influenza A as a screen for H1N1 has yielded false negative results. Providers should be prepared to report:

- Patient demographics (name, address, phone number, date of birth)
- Symptomatology
- Underlying medical conditions
- Occupation (employer and location)
- School
- Physician/Provider (name and phone number)

Providers who encounter patients with a suspected case of Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) should treat the patient based on the history and physical examination. Testing capacity for Novel Influenza A H1N1 remains limited and continues to be available for epidemiological purposes only. Therefore, the ECDOH Public Health Laboratory will only accept and process samples that have

been preapproved for testing by the ECDOH Epidemiology and Surveillance Division. Samples tested by the ECDOH Public Health Laboratory will be tested for both H1N1 and influenza A.

## **Reporting Criteria**

### **A. Hospitalized Patients**

Providers must report hospitalized patients with:

- Influenza-like-illness (ILI)\*
- Acute febrile respiratory illness\*\*

### **B. Non-Hospitalized Patients**

Providers are requested to report non-hospitalized patients (including patients seen and discharged from the emergency department) who have ILI\* and are:

- Health care workers
- Over 65 years of age
- Pregnant
- Individuals working or living in a residential institution or group facility (e.g., group home, nursing home, correctional facility, college dormitory, camp) without a known previously confirmed H1N1 case

### **C. Deaths**

Providers must report the death of any patient who meets any of the following criteria:

- Death of an individual with ILI\* or an acute respiratory febrile illness\*\*
- Death of an individual confirmed or suspected to have influenza A or H1N1

\***Influenza-like-illness (ILI)** is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

\*\***Acute respiratory febrile illness** is defined as ILI\* OR fever with either pneumonia, ARDS, or respiratory distress.

## **Health Category Definitions:**

**Health Alert FLASH:** conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

**Health Alert Priority:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

**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; no immediate action necessary