

**SUNY DOWNSTATE MEDICAL CENTER**  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF BROOKLYN

**PROTOCOL FOR EXPEDITED INFLUENZA A/B**  
**ANTIGEN TESTING**

**I. PURPOSE**

To ensure specimen handling, testing and reporting of Influenza Antigen testing on patient specimens received during regular business hours (9am-5pm) and off hours.

**II. DEFINITION(s)**

**Testing candidates: Patients seen in the Emergency Department and DMC's Ambulatory Care locations who fit the case definition for infection with Swine Influenza.**

Probable case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with Influenza-Like Illness with an influenza test that is positive for influenza A, but H1 and H3 negative.

Suspected case\* of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection is defined as a person with Influenza-Like Illness who, during the 7 days prior to symptom onset

1. Traveled to Mexico.
2. Had close contact with an ill person associated with St. Francis Preparatory High School
3. Had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of swine influenza.

**III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- **ED/Ambulatory sites:** to alert Laboratory Accessioning of imminent arrival of Influenza Antigen specimen.
- **Laboratory Accessioning section**  
9am -5pm Accessioning will notify the Virology laboratory at ext. 1837 of specimen receipt and will arrange for immediate transport to the Virology laboratory by alerting the laboratory messenger for immediate delivery to the Virology Laboratory, BSB4-128.  
5pm -9am Accessioning will call technologist on call regarding specimen. Technologist will be recalled and expedite the processing of the Influenza Antigen specimen.

- **Laboratory Technologists**  
Technologist will report results by telephone to the Emergency Department or the test order location.
- **Laboratory administrator or designee:**  
Monitors the TAT, through reports submitted, to ensure compliance and improvement.

#### IV. PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

##### a. Influenza Alert

- A schedule designating a Laboratory Technologist, for each day and work shift is maintained in the laboratories.
- The ED/Ambulatory site informs the laboratory of the imminent arrival of a specimen by calling ext. 2815 or ext. 4216
- Accessioning personnel notify the Microbiology Technologist from the on call list.

##### b. Collection and Transport

- Specimens must be collected and transported in viral transport medium. The medium is available in the Virology Laboratory Room, BSB 4-125 (Ext. 1837)
- ED/Ambulatory sites staff ensures that influenza specimens are ordered and collected properly.
- Specimen bags are marked with the word "Expedited FLU" on the exterior.
- Specimens are transported to the laboratory via the pneumatic tube transport system or delivered to Laboratory Accessioning, Room UHB A2-428, immediately after collection.

##### c. Specimen Processing

###### INFLUENZAE A TEST MONITORING

###### TAT

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| - Influenza A/B Antigen From 9am-5pm   | Within 90 minutes. |
| - Influenza A/B Antigen From 5pm – 9am | Within 2 hours     |

##### **Result Reporting:**

- Results are verified and made available for review in the LIS (Cerner)
- All results for Influenza A/B Antigen panel tests, positive or negative are communicated immediately to the patient's location by laboratory personnel
- Positive results - Specimens will be referred to New York City, Department of Health Laboratories/Center for Disease Control for confirmation.

- The Infection Control Department will follow up on positive cases with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

## **V. REFERENCE:**

- Center for Disease Control Guidelines
- New York City Department of Health Alerts

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***Created on:*** April 29, 2009